

Aesop's Fables

Video slow speed: <https://youtu.be/YIfwv7qHDO4>

Video normal speed: <https://youtu.be/dRb4y7NcBjc>

Video Storytelling: <https://youtu.be/tXYhNR17BcU>

Quizlet: https://quizlet.com/_57qlns

Suggested Use:

Step 1: Look at the vocabulary. Check any words that you don't know in your dictionary.

Step 2: Listen to the video. (Listen only. Don't look at the reading yet).

Step 3: Practice the vocabulary on Quizlet

Step 4: Watch the video again. This time look at the reading. Read and listen at the same time.

Step 5: Practice the vocabulary on Quizlet again.

Step 6: Listen one last time. The last time, don't look at the reading.

Vocabulary

according to, activity, advice, although, already, ancient, animal, ant, author, BC, believe, born, calendar, carefully, characteristic, Christian, clever, collect, collection, common, country, create, decide, differently, directly, disagree, egg, else, example, eventually, fable, famous, firstly, for example, fox, freedom, general, golden, goose, grape, grasshopper, Greek, handsome, however, human, instead, involved, kill, king, law, legend, lesson, lion, look up, master, modern, moral, mouse, nowadays, nursery, nursery rhyme, opinion, paragraph, particular, politics, popular, probably, rabbit, race, refer, rhyme, ruler, secondly, short, slave, slavery, special, still, storyteller, the Christian calendar, themselves, turtle, type, ugly, whether, wolf

Proper names:

Names of people: Aesop, Christ, Jesus Christ, Mother Goose, Scheherazade,
Names of Countries: Greece Names of Cities: Delphi

Aesop's Fables

“*Aesop's Fables*” refers to a collection of stories from ancient Greece.

So, who is Aesop and what is a fable?

Well, let's talk about fables first. A fable is a special type of story. There are three general characteristics of a fable.

Firstly, fables usually are stories about animals. In fables, the animals can talk, and can think, just like humans.

Secondly, fables are usually very short stories. Most fables are only 2 or 3 paragraphs long.

And thirdly, fables usually teach us something about how to live our lives. Most fables have a moral at the end. The moral tells us what the story means, and what we can learn from it.

When you read the moral of a fable, it's important to remember that you don't have to agree with it. Many people have different opinions. And also, modern people think differently than ancient people. So you must think about the moral carefully before you decide whether you agree or disagree with it. Sometimes you will agree with the moral, and sometimes you will disagree with it.

Next, who was Aesop?

According to legend, Aesop was the person who created all of these fables.

Why do I say “*according to legend*”? Because no one is sure whether Aesop was a real person or not. Some people think that the fables were created by many different authors, and were collected together over time into one book. And they think that Aesop was just a name given to this collection of stories--like Mother Goose is to English nursery rhymes, or Scheherazade is to *Arabian Nights*. (If you don't know Mother Goose or Scheherazade, you can look them up. They were both believed to be famous storytellers, but they were not real people.)

However, other people believe that Aesop was a real person. And maybe he was. We can never know for sure.

According to the legend, Aesop was born in ancient Greece in 620 BC. (“BC” stands for “Before Christ”. According to the Christian calendar, Jesus Christ was born in the year 1. So 620 BC is 620 years before the year 1.)

Aesop was born as a slave. (A “*slave*” is someone who is owned by someone else and has to work for them. Nowadays we think that slavery is bad, but it was very common in the ancient world.) According to legend, Aesop was very ugly. But although he was not handsome, he was clever. He could create very interesting stories, and people used to travel very far to listen to his stories.

Because Aesop's stories were so popular, many people wanted him as their slave. He was sold to different masters. But eventually, he was given his freedom.

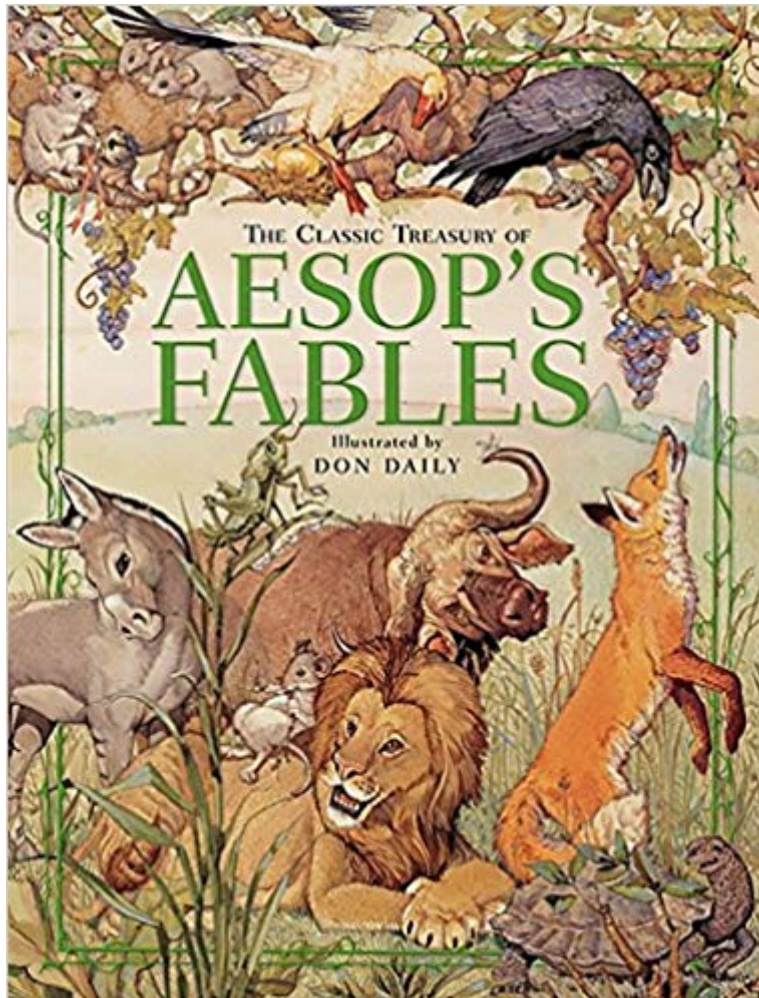
As a free man, Aesop became involved in politics. (“*Politics*” means the activity of deciding the government. For example, deciding who the leaders of the country will be, or

deciding what the laws of the country will be.) Many great rulers and kings came to Aesop to ask for his advice. But Aesop would never give them his advice directly. Instead, Aesop would tell them a short story--a fable--and the kings and rulers would have to decide for themselves what the lesson of the fable was.

However, one day, in the Greek town of Delphi, Aesop was asked for his advice, and he told a fable that made the people very angry. We do not know which particular fable Aesop told on that day, but whatever it was, the people of the town got so angry that they killed Aesop.

And so, the life of Aesop came to an end. But the people of Greece still remembered his fables, and many years later, we still remember these fables.

You probably know many of Aesop's Fables already. Do you know the story of the race between the turtle and the rabbit? Or the story of the boy who said he saw a wolf? Or the story of the ant and the grasshopper? The lion and the mouse? The town mouse and the country mouse? The fox and the grapes? The goose and the golden eggs? These stories, and many more, are Aesop's Fables.



Aesop's Fables

Video slow speed: <https://youtu.be/YIfwv7qHDO4>

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1. How many general characteristics of a fable are there?
2. What does the moral tell us?
3. Was Aesop a real person?
4. Where was Aesop born?
5. What was very common in the ancient world?
6. What did Aesop look like?
7. After he got his freedom, what did Aesop become involved in?
8. What did many great rulers and kings want from Aesop?
9. In which town was Aesop killed?
10. Why was Aesop killed?

Answers

1. How many general characteristics of a fable are there?

Three

2. What does the moral tell us?

What the story means, and what we can learn from it.

3. Was Aesop a real person?

No one is sure.

4. Where was Aesop born?

In ancient *Greece*

5. What was very common in the ancient world?

Slavery

6. What did Aesop look like?

He was ugly.

7. After he got his freedom, what did Aesop become involved in?

Politics

8. What did many great rulers and kings want from Aesop?

His advice

9. In which town was Aesop killed?

Delphi

10. Why was Aesop killed?

He told a story that made the people of Delphi angry.

Vocabulary

according to - as said by someone or shown by something:

According to Susie, he didn't even have a girlfriend.

based on a particular system or plan:

Children are allocated to schools according to the area in which they live.

activity - he doing of something, or something that you are doing, have done, or could do:

Carbon dioxide is also produced by human activity.

advice - suggestions about what you think someone should do or how they should do something:

She asked me for advice about writing a book.

although - despite the fact that:

She walked home by herself, although she knew it was dangerous.

already - before now, or before a particular time in the past:

I've already told him.

ancient - from a long time ago:

This is a story from ancient Greece.

animal - something that lives and moves but is not a person, bird, fish, or insect:

This is a wild animal.

ant - a small, black or red insect that lives in groups on the ground

author - someone who writes a book, article, etc:

He is a popular author of children's fiction.

BC - abbreviation for Before Christ: used to show that a particular year came before the birth of Christ:

He was born in the year 331 BC.

believe - to think that something is true, or that what someone says is true:

They believe that their health has suffered because of the chemicals.

born - When a person or animal is born, they come out of their mother's body and start to exist:

She was born in London in 1973.

calendar - something that shows all the days, weeks, and months of the year

the Christian calendar - the system used to measure and arrange the days, weeks, months and special events of the year according to Christian tradition

carefully - giving a lot of attention to what you are doing so that you do not have an accident, make a mistake, or damage something:
It was a carefully prepared speech.

characteristic - a typical or obvious quality that makes one person or thing different from others:
Does he have any distinguishing physical characteristics?

Christian - adjective form of Christianity

clever - able to learn and understand things quickly and easily:
He is a clever student.

collect - to get things from different places and bring them together:
The police are continuing to collect information.

collection - a group of things or people:
There's quite a collection of toothbrushes in the bathroom.

common - happening often or existing in large numbers:
Injuries are common in sports such as hockey.

country - the areas that are away from towns and cities

create - to make something happen or exist:
The project will create more than 500 jobs.

decide - to choose something after thinking about several possibilities:
I haven't decided whether or not to tell him.

differently - (ADVERB) not the same as someone or something

directly - clearly and honestly:
Let me answer that question directly.

disagree - to have a different opinion from someone else about something:
I disagree with most of what he said.

egg - an oval object produced by a female chicken, that you eat as food:
This is a boiled egg.

else - different from someone or something:
I don't like it here. Let's go somewhere else.
I didn't say that. It must have been someone else.

example - something that is typical of the group of things that you are talking about:
This is a good example of medieval Chinese architecture.

for example - used to give an example of what you are talking about:
Some people, students for example, can get cheaper tickets.

eventually - in the end, especially after a long time:
We all hope that an agreement can be reached eventually.

fable - a short, traditional story, usually involving animals, which is intended to show people how to behave:

famous - known or recognized by many people:
She is a famous actress.

firstly - used to introduce the first idea, reason, etc in a series:
The aim of this activity is firstly to have fun, and secondly to keep fit

fox - a wild animal like a dog with red-brown fur, a pointed nose, and a long, thick tail

freedom - a situation in which someone is no longer a prisoner

general - not detailed, but including the most basic or necessary information:
These leaflets contain some general information about the school.

golden - made of gold or like gold:
This is a golden ring.

goose - a large water bird similar to a duck

grape - a small, round, green, purple or red fruit that grows in large, close groups and is often used to make wine:

This is a bunch of grapes.

grasshopper - a green insect that jumps about using its long back legs

Greek - coming from or relating to Greece

handsome - A handsome man is attractive:

He is tall, dark and handsome.

however - used when you are about to say something that is surprising compared with what you have just said:

He had always been a successful businessman. Recently, however, things have not been going well for him.

human - a man, woman, or child:

The disease affects both humans and animals.

instead - in the place of someone or something else:

If you don't want pizza, we can have pasta instead.

involve - to make someone be part of an activity or process:

I prefer teaching methods that actively involve students in learning.

involved - to do things and be part of an activity or event:

How did you get involved in acting?

kill - to make someone or something die:

Sunday's bomb killed 19 people.

king - a male ruler in some countries:

This is King Richard II.

law - an official rule in a country:

There are laws against drinking in the street.

legend - an old story or set of stories from ancient times:

These are the legends of King Arthur.

lesson - an experience that teaches you how to behave better in a similar situation in the future:
My parents made me pay back all the money, and it was a lesson I never forgot.

lion - a large, wild animal of the cat family, with light brown fur

look up - to look at a book or computer in order to find information:
I looked it up in the dictionary.

master - In the past, a slave's master was the man that they worked for.

modern - relating to the present time and not to the past:
This is a modern society.

moral - something you learn from a story or event about how to behave:
The moral of the story is never lie.

mouse - a small animal with fur and a long, thin tail

nowadays - at the present time, especially when compared to the past:
Everything seems more expensive nowadays.

nursery - a place where babies and young children are looked after without their parents

nursery rhyme - a short poem or song for young children

opinion - a thought or belief about something or someone:
What's your opinion about the matter?

paragraph - a part of a text that contains at least one sentence and starts on a new line

particular - used to talk about one thing or person and not others:
Is there any particular restaurant you'd like to go to?

politics - ideas and activities relating to how a country or area is governed:
He has little interest in local politics.

popular - liked by many people:

'Jack' was the most popular boy's name.

probably - used to mean that something is very likely:

I'll probably be home by midnight.

rabbit - a small animal with fur and long ears that lives in a hole in the ground

race - a competition in which people run, ride, drive, etc against each other in order to see who is the fastest:

She finished the race in third position.

refer - If writing or information refers to someone or something, it relates to that person or thing:

The sales figures refer to UK sales only.

rhyme - If a word rhymes with another word, the end part of the words sound the same:

'Moon' rhymes with 'June'.

ruler - the leader of a country

secondly - used for introducing the second reason, idea, etc:

I want two things: firstly, more money, and secondly, better working hours.

short - A short book or other piece of writing has few pages or words:

This is a short story.

slave - someone who is owned by someone else and has to work for them:

He treats his mother like a slave.

slavery - the system of owning slaves, or the condition of being a slave

special - better or more important than usual things:

I'm cooking something special for her birthday.

still - used to say that something is continuing to happen now or that someone is continuing to do something now:

He's still here if you want to speak to him.

storyteller - a person who writes, tells, or reads stories

themselves - the reflexive form of the pronoun 'they':

They're both 16 - they're old enough to look after themselves.

turtle - an animal with four legs and a hard shell that lives mainly in water

type - a person or thing that is part of a group of people or things that have similar qualities, or a group of people or things that have similar qualities:

They sell over 20 different types of cheese.

ugly - unpleasant to look at:

It hurt my feelings when he said I was ugly.

whether - used to talk about a choice between two or more possibilities:

Someone's got to tell her, whether it's you or me.

I didn't know whether or not to go.

wolf - a wild animal like a large dog

Aesop - a Greek fabulist and storyteller credited with a number of fables now collectively known as Aesop's Fables

Jesus - the Jewish holy man believed by Christians to be the Son of God, and on whose life and teachings Christianity is based

Christ - a title for the saviour and redeemer who would bring salvation to the Jewish people and mankind. Christians believe Jesus is the Jewish messiah foretold in both the Hebrew Bible and the Christian Old Testament. Christ, used by Christians as both a name and a title, is synonymous with Jesus.

Mother Goose - the imaginary author of a collection of fairy tales and nursery rhymes

Scheherazade - a character and the storyteller in One Thousand and One Nights.

Greece - a country located in Southern Europe, with a population of approximately 11 million as of 2016. Athens is the nation's capital and largest city, followed by Thessaloniki.

Delphi - famous as the ancient sanctuary that grew rich as the seat of Pythia, the oracle who was consulted about important decisions throughout the ancient classical world.

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Aesop's fables Aesop's fables

00:09

Aesop's fables

00:11

Aesop's fables what does it mean who was

00:17

Issa and what is a fable let's talk

00:23

about fables first a fable is a short

00:29

story there are three general

00:34

characteristics of a fable

00:36

meaning there are three things at fables

00:40

usually have the first thing they are

00:46

usually not always but usually about

00:52

animals but in fables animals are like

00:58

people they can talk they can think like

01:02

people they act like people sometimes so

01:09

fables are about animals but animals who

01:12

act like people secondly fables are

01:19

usually short most fables mini fables

01:25

are only one paragraph or maybe two

01:31

paragraphs and thirdly a fable usually

01:38

has a moral at the end what is immoral

01:43

immoral is what the story wants to teach

01:48

you the moral is the lesson of the story

01:53

what you can learn from the story and

01:56

use in your life is the moral

02:02

next let's talk about

02:05

ESOP who was Issa well ESOP may or may

02:14

not have been a real person

02:18

some people think ESOP was only a legend

02:25

legend is a old story that is not real

02:31

so some people think he's up was not

02:34

real and that Aesop's fables are a

02:38

collection of old stories that was

02:42

collected over time into one book and

02:48

ESOP was just a legend but other people

02:55

think that ESOP was real and we don't

03:00

know maybe he was real maybe he was not

03:04

real we can never know for sure

03:08

but what is the legend the legend of

03:14

ESOP is that ESOP was born in ancient

03:19

Greece in 620 BC BC means before Christ

03:31

now according to the Christian calendar

03:36

Christ was born in the year 1 so 620 BC

03:44

would be six hundred and twenty years

03:48

before the year 1 so according to legend

03:55

ESOP was born in ancient Greece ancient

03:58

means very old ancient Greece in 620 BC

04:03

now ESOP was born as a slave a slave is

04:11

someone who is not free

04:14

they are owned by someone else they have

04:19

to work for someone else but they don't

04:22

get any money they have no control over

04:27

their life now nowadays we think that

04:34

slavery is very bad but in the ancient

04:39

world way back in ancient Greece in 620

04:44

BC slavery was very common and ESOP was

04:50

a slave ESAB according to legend was

04:57

very ugly

04:59

he had an ugly face people saw him and

05:03

they said oh he is so ugly but he was
05:10
very intelligent he was very clever he
05:15
was so smart and because he was so smart
05:19
he could tell these interesting stories
05:22
and people used to travel for long
05:27
distances they used to travel a long way
05:31
to come and listen to ESOP stories now
05:37
eventually he saw became very famous and
05:43
many people wanted to buy him he was a
05:48
slave so he could be bought insult but
05:54
eventually after being sold to many
05:59
different masters he was given his
06:03
freedom so he became a free man
06:09
now as a free man ESOP became involved
06:14
in politics politics is the activity of
06:21
deciding the governments of a country or
06:26
deciding the laws of a country so
06:30
deciding how deciding what the rulers of
06:36
the country should do now many famous
06:41
kings and leaders came to ESOP for

06:46

advice they wanted to know what should I

06:50

do about this or what should I do about

06:54

that and ESOP never told them directly

07:01

he never said you should do this or you

07:06

should do that instead ESOP would tell

07:11

them a short story and then they would

07:15

have to decide what the moral of the

07:19

story was what was ESOP trying to tell

07:22

them with the story one day ESOP was in

07:29

the town of Delfy and greek and the

07:33

people there asked him for his advice

07:37

and he told a story now we don't know

07:45

which story ESOP told on that day nobody

07:51

knows but the people of Delfy became

07:55

very angry they became very angry very

08:00

quickly and they killed ESOP and that

08:07

was the end of his life but we still

08:13

remember his stories all these thousands

08:18

of years later

08:21

many of Aesop's stories are very famous

08:24

you probably know already a lot of

08:28

Aesop's fables for example do you know

08:32

the story of the turtle and the rabbit

08:35

who had a race that's he sups fables or

08:41

the lazy grasshopper and the ant Aesop's

08:47

fables or the boy who yelled wolf wolf

08:52

he's up stables or the Fox who wanted

08:58

the grapes he's up again or the man and

09:03

the boy in the donkey again he's up so

09:07

many of these famous stories are Aesop's

09:11

fables and they have lived after his

09:15

death now one important thing to

09:20

remember when you read Aesop's fables

09:23

each story will have a moral at the end

09:28

the moral is what the story wants to

09:31

teach you sometimes I read the story and

09:38

I read the moral and I think that's a

09:44

terrible moral I don't agree with that

09:49

moral at all and that's okay

09:53

remember these are very old stories so

09:58

sometimes the way people thought long

10:02

ago was different than the way people

10:06

think now and besides everyone has

10:10

different opinions everyone has their

10:13

own opinion so when you read the story

10:17

think about the moral you don't have to

10:21

agree with it

10:23

read the moral and think is this what I

10:28

believe is

10:31

is true in my life do I think this is

10:35

true think carefully about the moral

10:40

don't believe every moral you read but

10:46

think and sometimes you will agree with

10:51

the moral and sometimes you will

10:54

disagree with the moral and that's okay