

Lesson Name : 34

Lesson Title : Chinese Creation Myths

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

Task Id : 57331127

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Essential Instruction

Read the section on Pan Gu in "[Chinese Creation Myths](#)."

It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep notes about new vocabulary and definitions that you may need to reference later.



Reading Strategies and Evaluating Argument

As is the case for most folktales, the authors of "Chinese Creation Myths" are unknown. Even so, the narrators attempt to convince readers that all of creation came from one godlike man, Pan Gu. As you prepare to read "Chinese Creation Myths," use **reading strategies** to check and monitor your understanding and comprehension. One **strategy** is to stop reading after several paragraphs and question yourself about what you just read. Another **strategy** is to evaluate the authors' **arguments**. Of what are the authors attempting to convince you in this story? Do you agree or disagree with the **arguments** made? Are the arguments made in the stories logical, meaning they make sense, or illogical, meaning they don't make sense?

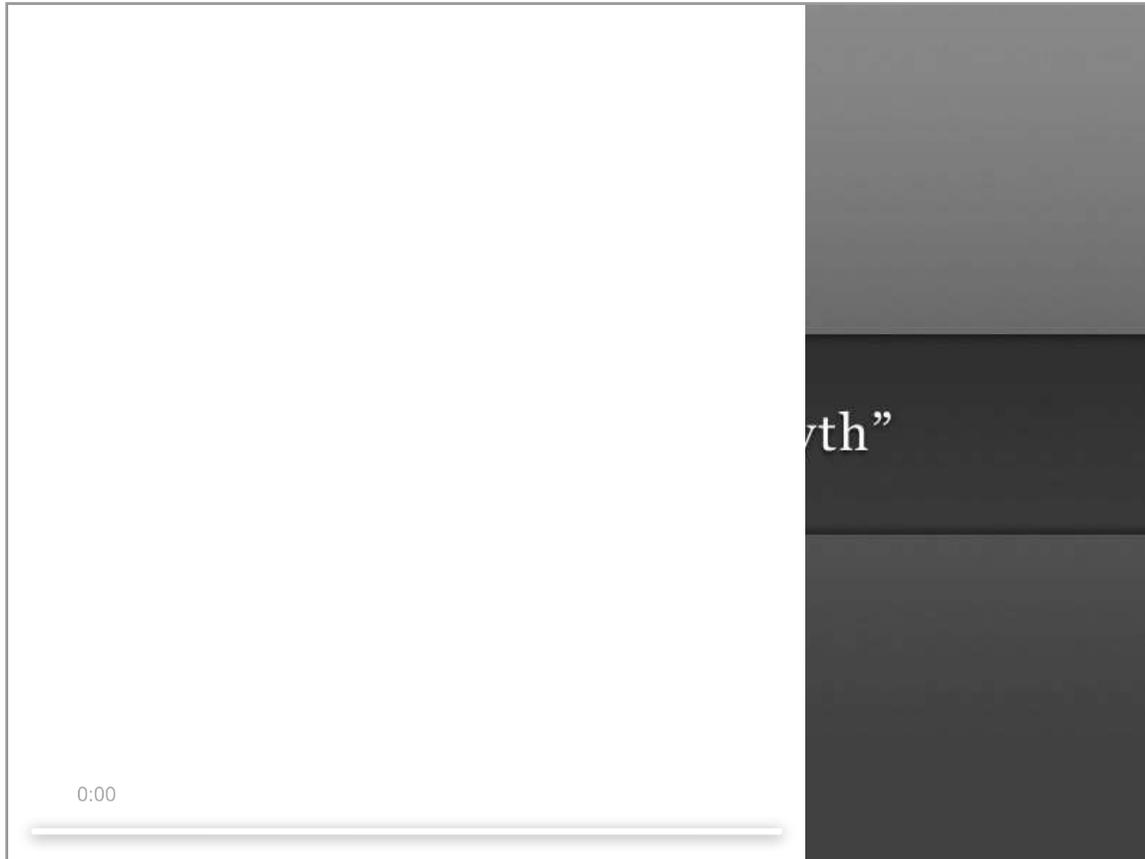
Cause and Effect

Cause and effect stories tell why something happens. Folktales often follow a **cause and effect** pattern. Because this happened (**cause**) this action followed (**effect**). You may find it helpful to create a **cause and effect** timeline as you read. **Cause** and **effect** writing gives reasons and explanations for events, conditions, or behavior. What are the **causes** and what are the **effects** in "Chinese Creation Myths?" Literature is often affected by the historical time period in which it was written. This folktale comes from ancient China. What elements of the Chinese culture are reflected in the story?

After reading “Chinese Creation Myths,” you should have noted several **cause and effect** situations. Because Pan Gu felt suffocated (**cause**) he broke open the egg (**effect**). The earth and sky will never touch (**effect**) because Pan Gu grew so big (**cause**). You should have also noted the **effects** of the rivalry between Pan Gu and King Fang, as well as the **effects** of the princess’ curiosity. There are also several elements of Chinese culture reflected in this folktale. Notice how many children the princess and Pan Gu have and their genders.

Elements of Folktales

Legends and traditions, fairy tales, animal tales, fables, and myths can all be classified as **folktales**. Some **folktales** include a lesson or a moral, but all **folktales** attempt to describe or define a phenomenon that occurs in that culture. **Folktales** are any traditional narrative, either oral or literary. What concepts of Chinese culture are explained through “Chinese Creation Myths?” What characteristics of **folktales** do you notice?



[Open Video in New Tab](#) 

Vocabulary

Understanding the words used in a story can aid your understanding of a story. Here are some words from “Chinese Creation Myths”:

1. **chaos** – noun – a state of utter confusion or disorder
2. **wielded** – verb – handled (a weapon or tool, for example) with skill and ease
3. **turbid** – adj. – not clear
4. **pillar** – noun – any upright, supporting part
5. **fertile** – adj. – capable of producing vegetation and crops
6. **innumerable** – adj. – endless or too many to count
7. **marrow** – noun – a soft, fatty substance in the cavities of bones
8. **reared** – verb – brought up or cared for
9. **gourd** – noun – a type of fruit with a hard skin
10. **solicitude** – noun – care or concern for someone