

Lesson Name : 32

Lesson Title : The Birth of Hawaii

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

Task Id : 57330672

Course Id : 15021



Essential Instruction

Read "[The Birth of Hawaii](#)."

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 author of "The Birth of Hawaii" is unknown. Even so, the narrator attempts to convince readers that the islands of Hawaii were created as a result of a love triangle between sisters and a king. As you prepare to read, "The Birth of Hawaii," use **reading strategies** to check and monitor your reading comprehension. One **strategy** is to stop after reading several paragraphs and question yourself about what you just read. Another **strategy** is to evaluate the author's **argument**. Of what is the author attempting to convince you with this story? Do you agree or disagree with the **arguments** made? Are the **arguments** made in the story logical, meaning they make sense, or illogical, meaning they don't make sense?

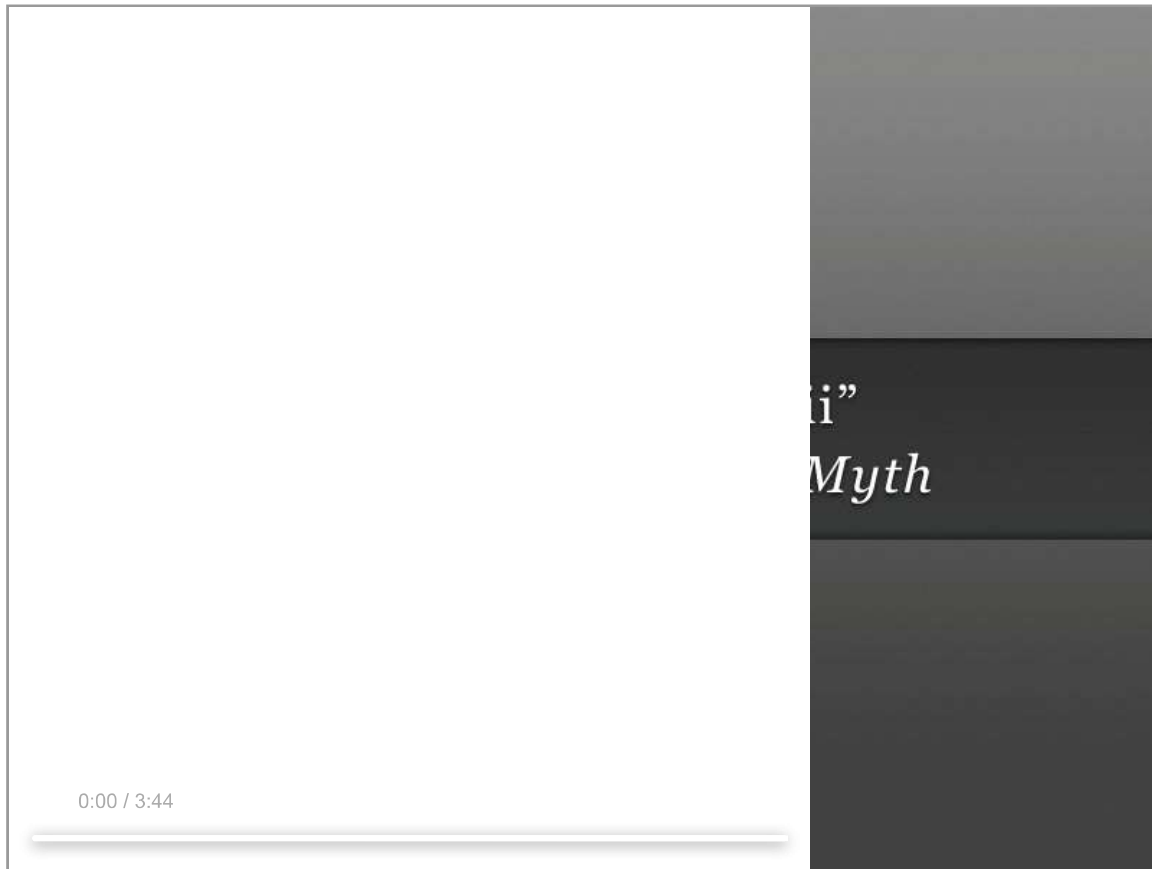
Cause and Effect Stories

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. What are the **causes** and what are the **effects** in "The Birth of Hawaii?" Literature is often affected by the historical time period in which it was written. This folktale comes from the Pacific Islands. What elements of the natural environment are reflected in the story?

Several **causes** have **effects** in "The Birth of Hawaii." You should have noted the star that Pele follows and the fire fight with 'Ailaau that results in Pele ruling over Hawaii. The actions, or **causes** that follow the birth of Pele's sister, set into motion the **effects** that eventually bring about the creation of the island chain. Think about how the islands are formed in this story. What natural occurrence is being described when Pele and 'Ailaau fight with fire? And when Pele covers Lohi'au with lava and flames? This story fits the definition of a folktale because it explains this phenomenon and incorporates values and beliefs of the Pacific Island people. For example, much like nature experiences rebirth after an eruption, so does Pele.

Elements of a Folktale

Generally speaking, **folktales** are any traditional narrative, either oral or literary. Legends and traditions, fairytales, 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. What concepts of Pacific islander culture are explained through “The Birth of Hawaii”? What phenomenon is explained through this **folktale**? 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 the story. Here are some words from “The Birth of Hawaii”:

1. **haze** – noun – a thin, foggy or smoky film that hides the view of something
2. **fury** – noun – extreme anger or force
3. **eruption** – noun – a violent outburst of molten rock and steam from a volcano
4. **crater** –noun – a cup-shaped hole in the earth