Mythology is more than just a collection of stories and characters. They act as a window into the beliefs and values of ancient civilizations. This new five-volume set from U•X•L will help students with the plot points, the historical context, and the mythological allusions they need to fully understand how mythologies not only reflect cultures of old but also remain meaningful in society today.

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Coverage in U•X•L Encyclopedia of World Mythology spans a diversity of cultures, including standard Greek/Roman mythology as well as Native North and South American traditions, Norse mythology, Asian Pacific mythology, Judeo-Christian tradition, Islamic and Hindu mythologies and other ethnic mythologies. Full-color inserts for each volume enhance the reader’s understanding of the text.

Standard subheads make it easy for students to pick out information and compare across entries.

Achilles

Character Overview

Achilles (pronounced ah-KIL-ess) is one of the most important warriors in Greek mythology. He had strength, bravery, nobility, skill, pride, and honor—all qualities that the ancient Greeks prized in nearly every virtue. Yet his behavior was also enigmatic, stubborn, and envious. The conflict between Achilles' larger-than-life virtues and his all-conquering, prostituerade plays an important part in the heroic tragedy of the tale.

Like many mythological heroes, Achilles was part human and part supernatural being. His parents were Nestor (a mortal prince) and Thetis (a sea nymph named Thetis). According to Homer, Athena mixed both Achilles and his closest friend and companion, Patroclus (a mortal prince), in the Guideriola River.

Upon the advice of Athena, Achilles' mother Thetis tried to make her son invulnerable by dipping him into the river Styx. This failed because his heel remained vulnerable. He was born in the city of Thessaly, the capital of ancient Greece, and was a son of Thetis and Peleus, king of Thessaly. Achilles was trained by his mother in all manner of arms. He was taught how to handle a bow and arrow and how to handle a sword and shield. Achilles was brought up in the city of Thessaly, the capital of ancient Greece, and was a son of Thetis and Peleus, king of Thessaly.

Achilles was the son of Thetis and Peleus, king of Thessaly. He was born in the city of Thessaly, the capital of ancient Greece, and was a son of Thetis and Peleus, king of Thessaly.

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A UNIQUE RESOURCE

U•X•L Encyclopedia of World Mythology is unique for its depth of individual myths, its breadth of cultures covered and its accessibility to middle school students and up. Sample entries include:

- Achilles
- The Aeneid
- Amazons
- Aphrodite
- Arachne
- Aztec Mythology
- Beowulf
- Celtic Mythology
- Chinese Mythology
- Circe
- Cybele
- Cyclopes
- Dragons
- Eros
- Fates
- Fenrir
- Fire
- Genies (djinn)
- Giants
- Gilgamesh
- Hades
- Helen of Troy
- Hercules
- Hermes
- Holy Grail
- Horus
- Huiztilopochtli
- Idun
- Incan Mythology
- Indra
- Ishtar
- Isis
- Izanagi and Izanami
- Janus
- Japanese Mythology
- Jason
- Kachinas
- Krishna
- Leprechauns
- Loki
- Marduk
- Medea
- Medusa
- Minotaur
- And many more

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Why do so many cultures have flood myths? What cultures have a god like Pan? Consistent subheads in U•X•L Encyclopedia of World Mythology entries make it easy for students to pick out information and compare mythologies across cultures, including:

- Overview
- Context
- Key Themes and Symbols
- Art, Literature and Everyday Life
- Read, Write, Think, Discuss — supports critical thinking skills

HELPFUL TOOLS

The following helpful tools direct users to needed information, provide context and spur further research:

- A table of contents (by ethnicity/nationality)
- Research ideas and activities
- Chronology of myths and ancient civilizations
- Glossary
- A cumulative general index (by character, subject, theme)

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