

SUGGESTED LEARNING STRATEGIES: Word Map

A part of a culture’s **folklore** is its folk literature—the stories it tells. Folk literature refers to myths and folk tales, as well as a variety of other kinds of stories.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Folklore is a general term that describes the stories, traditions, sayings, and customs of a culture or a society.

1. Fill in the blanks below to match each type of story with its definition.

	Fable	Legend	Tall Tale	Myth	Fairy Tale	Folk Tale
1.	A _____ is a traditional story believed to be based on actual people and events. These stories, which typically celebrate heroic individuals or significant achievements, tend to express the values of a culture.					
2.	A _____ is a story that involves fantasy elements such as witches, goblins, and elves. These stories often involve princes and princesses and today are generally told to entertain children.					
3.	A _____ is a story from the past involving gods or heroes. These stories often explain beliefs, customs, or mysterious natural phenomena or identify acceptable and unacceptable behavior.					
4.	A _____ is a highly exaggerated and often humorous story about folk heroes in local settings. The characters in these stories might be real, but their actions are greatly exaggerated.					
5.	A _____ is an anonymous traditional story passed on orally from one generation to another.					
6.	A _____ is a brief story that teaches a lesson or moral, usually through animal characters that take on human qualities.					

2. As a group, you will be assigned one of the above types of literature.
 - Make a list of all the stories that you know that fit the definition.
 - Choose one story that your group knows well.
 - Deliver a brief presentation to the rest of the class in which you tell the story and accompany the story with two or three drawings that illustrate key points of the story.
 - Be sure to explain how your selected story fits the criteria of your specific type of folk literature.



WORD CONNECTIONS

The word **fable** comes from the Latin word *fabula*, meaning “tale.” Other English words derived from this word are *fabulous*, *affable*, and *confabulate*.