

# Scheme of Learning: Myth and the City: Foundation Stories

## Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gods and Goddesses	Heracles: Universal Hero	Religion in the City	Myth and the City	Festivals	Myths and Symbols of Power	Death and Burial	Journey to the Underworld

## Topic Overview:

This is the fourth topic of the GCSE Classical Civilisations course, and the main aim is to provide pupils with a thorough understanding of how myths were important to cities in Ancient times. This is a topic that builds on pupils prior knowledge of Gods and Goddesses and continues to build on their knowledge of Greek and Roman heroes. In fact, the concept of the hero drives this topic with a study of Theseus and Athens, and Aeneas and Rome, as well as a comparison between Theseus and Romulus focusing on their qualities as a hero. The topic focuses on the key myths and stories in the founding of Athens and Rome, and requires pupils to know the stories, but also why they are so important to these cities. It is also where a number of new ancient authors are introduced such as Livy and Plutarch, along with further opportunities to bring in additional extracts from The Aeneid in an attempt to build pupils resilience in reading these ancient books.

## Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to build pupils' understanding and knowledge of how two cities, Athens and Rome, have been founded on myths and foundation stories, and why that is important to these two key cities and civilisations. The aim is to build on pupils' prior knowledge of gods and goddesses and connect that to these foundation stories, but also develop their knowledge of heroes much further.

The first lesson uses provides an overview of two key myths surrounding Athens: the contest between Athena and Poseidon for patronage of Athens, and Theseus' connection to Athens and its growth into a powerful city. The first lesson uses the knowledge map for ancient Greece foundation stories as the basis of this lesson and provides pupils with an overview of each myth so pupils can place their future learning in context. The next two lessons explore the contest between Athena and Poseidon and relate it to a temple they learnt in the last topic, the Parthenon, by looking at how this myth is presented in the pediment.

The next set of lessons look at the second hero of the course, Theseus, and his connection to Athens. It builds on their previous knowledge of Heracles, he was Theseus' cousin. The pupils look at Theseus' early-life and his labours, with a real focus on his exploits in Crete when killing the Minotaur. All of these labours and the myth of the Minotaur are all analysed further in the final lesson of the sequence on Greek myth when pupils have to apply their knowledge of Theseus by analysing a kylix which depicts all of Theseus' adventures.

Like all previous topics, the focus then switches to Rome and its foundations, with a real emphasise on the Roman hero, Aeneas. This is a key moment where pupils can really begin to see a difference between Ancient Greece and Rome emerging. The character of Aeneas is very different to Theseus and Heracles, and pupils understand that through the exploration of Aeneas, his leaving of Troy, and his journey to Italy. It is also an opportune moment to read a longer extract from The Aeneid by reading the full chapter of The Fall of Troy, setting the scene for Aeneas' departure from Troy whilst using the words of Virgil. Pupils will analyse this extract in depth, and further, smaller extracts when exploring his journey.

The final sequence of lessons explores the myth of Romulus and Remus and the founding of Rome. Pupils will build on their knowledge from Aeneas, and see how the most powerful city on the Ancient World was founded. They will learn this story through the work of Livy and also question his reliability as an historian. This will be the first time that pupils are introduced to another ancient writer, Plutarch, when they are asked to compare a Greek hero, Theseus, against Romulus, and this then concludes this topic.

## Sequence of Lessons:

1	Foundation Stories 1 – Athens (Overview)
2	Foundation Stories 2 – Athens (Contest)
3	Foundation Stories 3 – Athens (Pediment)
4	Foundation Stories 4 – Theseus (Early-Life)
5	Foundation Stories 5 – Theseus (Labours)
6	Foundation Stories 6 – Theseus (Minotaur)
7	Foundation Stories 7 – Theseus (Kylix)
8	Foundation Stories 8 – Rome (Overview)
9	Foundation Stories 9 – Aeneas (Fall of Troy)
10	Foundation Stories 10 – Aeneas (Journey)
11	Foundation Stories 11 – Aeneas (Arrival)
12	Foundation Stories 12 – Founding of Rome
13	Foundation Stories 13 – Comparison of Theseus and Romulus
14	Foundation Stories 14 – Theseus and Romulus Exam Practice
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## Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	7. Knowledge Map: Foundation Stories (Ancient Greece)	Prescribed Sources:	4. Prescribed Sources: Foundation Stories
	8. Knowledge Map: Foundation Stories (Ancient Rome)		

## Assessment:

Knowledge:	20 question knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	A section on identifying a god/goddess, a metope of Heracles that also assesses their knowledge on Ancient Olympia, and a series of 1 and 2 mark questions on the foundation stories of Athens and Rome.

## Supportive Reading:

The Aeneid Virgil	Chapter 2: The Fall of Troy
	Chapter 3: The Wanderings