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## Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

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### myth

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Main Entry: **myth** 🗣️

Pronunciation: 'mith

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Greek *mythos*

**1 a** : a usually traditional story of ostensibly historical events that serves to unfold part of the world view of a people or explain a practice, belief, or natural phenomenon **b** : [PARABLE](#), [ALLEGORY](#)

**2 a** : a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone; *especially* : one embodying the ideals and institutions of a society or segment of society <seduced by the American *myth* of individualism -- Orde Coombs> **b** : an unfounded or false notion

**3** : a person or thing having only an imaginary or unverifiable existence

**4** : the whole body of myths

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