

PROJECT: FOLK TALES

The fire crackled, spitting a spark near the storyteller's blanket. The air was crisp and the listeners cuddled up close. Every stomach was full of the slippery meat from the feast, and children nibbled on the last of the raisins. A mother shushed her toddler, for the tale was about to begin.

Once, in the royal city of Isfahan, there lived a young man named Ahmed, who had a wife named Jamell. He knew no special craft or trade, but he had a shovel and a pick—and, as he often told his wife, "If you can dig a hole, you can always earn enough to stay alive." That was enough for Ahmed. But it was not enough for Jamell.

Thus begins the ancient Persian folktale, "The 40 Fortunes". All over the world, from the beginning of time, people have gathered together to listen to and tell folk tales. It helped define them as a people and created a common identity.

What is a folk tale?

A folk tale is a traditional story or legend passed from storyteller to storyteller, generation to generation, to entertain and, often, provide a moral point. Folk tales differ from myths, because they aren't explanations of the beginning of things. They aren't meant to instill religious devotion or practice, they don't involve gods and superheroes, and they were never taken to be truth, like myths were.

Folk tales are about common people, with a universal appeal, and usually take on characteristics of their time and place. For example, a version of the classic Cinderella tale was told from a German perspective, but, also, from an Asian perspective. It's the same story with different names, places, and nuances that make sense each the storyteller's culture.

Every culture, tribe, and group has folk tales, and they change and morph according to the storyteller. It is nearly impossible to know, because the very nature of folktales means the tales get orally passed down and change.

In this project, you will learn more about folk tales and how they may have been influential to the culture and people of their origins.

Directions

Create a slide presentation that explores three distinct folktales from cultures on different continents, within the timeframe of this unit. Make certain you explain why each story is a folktale and not a myth, as well as how each relates or does not relate to the other folktales. Follow grammatical rules by using correct punctuation, spelling, and capitalization. Your presentation should be at least 7 slides and include graphics and the following:

Slide 1 – Title Page

Slide 2 – Define/Explain the differences between Folk Tales and Myths

Slide 3 – Folk Tale from Culture 1

- give a brief summary of the folk tale and identify any themes or morals

Slide 4 – Folk Tale from Culture 2

- give a brief summary of the folk tale and identify any themes or morals

Slide 5 – Folk Tale from Culture 3

- give a brief summary of the folk tale and identify any themes or morals

Slide 6 – How do these folk tales relate

Slide 7 - References