**Brief Reference**

*Oxford Reference Online.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. [Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/. Search “all e-resources” for *Oxford Reference Online* and select *Mythology & Folklore*. You should get a range of titles, including the six listed below.]

You can also search “all e-resources” for *dictionary and mythology* (make sure you select *containing* for the search). You should retrieve all six titles listed below.

*Oxford Reference* is an extensive general reference site containing many online titles for students of mythology: *A Dictionary of African Mythology, A Dictionary of Asian Mythology, A Dictionary of Celtic Mythology, A Dictionary of English Folklore, A Dictionary of Superstitions* and *A Dictionary of World Mythology*.


This work includes more than 3,000 entries and provides coverage of world myth, fairy tale, and legend. Citations of relevant literature, films, music and art are also included.


This work covers the mythologies of many countries and civilizations from prehistoric times to the 20th century. The entries, arranged by civilization rather than by alphabetical title, cover a wide breadth of material in detail. The *Encyclopedia* includes an index and a bibliography.


Like the *New Larousse Encyclopedia of Mythology*, this source organizes in-depth articles on mythology by civilization and contains an index and a bibliography. Unlike the other encyclopedia, *Larousse World Mythology* focuses in more detail on non-European civilizations, such as the Bantu tribes in Africa, Micronesia and the Tamils.

Illustration in title box: Pieter Bruegel the Elder, *Landscape with the Fall of Icarus* (c. 1558), Musées Royaux des Beaux-Arts, Brussels
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BL311 .W66 1993]

Colour pictures and photographs help make this book an excellent introductory work. Organized geographically (e.g. India, Rome and Africa), *World Mythology* explains rituals (e.g. marriage), gods and goddesses (e.g. Zeus and the Great Spirit), legendary figures (e.g. Romulus and Krisna), and other subjects of mythical importance. The book contains a bibliography (p. 308-309) too.

**Mythologies.** Compiled by Yves Bonnefoy; a restructured translation of *Dictionnaire des mythologies et des religions des sociétés traditionnelles et du monde antique* prepared under the direction of Wendy Doniger and translated by Gerald Honigsblum [et al.]. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. 2 volumes.  

Geographically arranged in ten parts, this 2-volume work is indispensable for its broad scope and depth of coverage. Unlike the two Larousse encyclopedias, *Mythologies* includes a detailed table of Contents (p. ix-xvi) and contains bibliographies after each entry, rather than all lumped together at the end of the book.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – GR35 .J6]

A comprehensive two-volume work which includes a separate index volume, the *Dictionary of Mythology, Folklore and Symbols* is little dated but still very useful.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – GR931 .C4713 1996]

**Folklore and Mythology Electronic Texts**  
[Available online: http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/folktexts.html]

This impressive personal site contains links to full-text online stories from folklore and mythology, organized alphabetically. While coverage of Ancient Greek and Roman mythology is poor, the site includes links to North American Native myths, Aesop’s Fables and Grimm’s Fairy Tales, and other tales from such places as India and The Philippines. The site is much better for folklore than it is for myth.

**Encyclopedia Mythica**  
[Available online for free: http://www.pantheon.org]

Use the search box in the top-right hand corner to search this top-notch site for mythological subjects from Aryong Jong, the Korean goddess of rainfall, to Zeus, the ruler of the Greek gods. You can also browse the 7,000 or so articles on this site by specific mythology (such as Latvian, Roman or Hindu). Just click on the quick select area drop-down menu. Although the articles are usually short, they cover a range of topics.


**SPECIFIC REFERENCE**

[Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/.
Search “all e-resources” for mythical zoo.]
[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – GR705 .S344 2001]

Supported with a brief bibliography after each entry and a substantial index at the back, *The Mythical Zoo* contains lengthy articles—arranged alphabetically—on animals and their cultural significance in history and literature.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – GR825 .M87 1987]

Organized in the table of contents into four main types—birds and beasts, human-animal composites, creatures of darkness and giants and fairies—*Mythical and Fabulous Creatures* provides lengthy articles on 20 major mythical creatures from the basilisk to the werewolf. Bolstered with detailed bibliographies after each entry and a useful index, the book also contains *A Glossary of Some of the More Important Fabulous Creatures* (p. [xxx]-xxxv) and a variety of *Illustrations of Fabulous Creatures* (p. xxxviii-xl ix).


With entries arranged by character or hero, the *Companion* includes suggestions for further reading and a subject index.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BL303 .L8713 1987]

This little book is useful for anyone studying supernatural or divine beings such as Hades, the Greek god of the underworld, Bumba, supreme being and creator of a Bantu tribe in Africa, Unut, an Egyptian goddess, and Maui, a Polynesian demigod.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BL473.5 .A66 1995]

International in scope, *Goddesses* is organized, first geographically and then alphabetically by goddess. Each article describes a goddess, the origin of her myth and finishes with a bibliography. The book includes an index that lets you search by name or attribute.
[Robarts 4th Floor Reference Area – BL473 .L43 1992]

A dictionary of deities from around the world organized according to themes.


Arranged alphabetically, the entries in the Encyclopedia of Creation Myths range in length from a few lines to a few pages. The book contains a brief bibliography and an index at back.


This book is an excellent source for introductory information about nature myths. With a guide to primary sources (such as Homer’s Iliad), an extensive bibliography (p. 283-291) and culture and subject indexes, Legends of the Earth provides medium-sized articles alphabetically and includes entries on such topics as Aurora, Mount Olympus, Shamanism and Zodiac.


This valuable dictionary of mythology in art has been reprinted many times.


Although the entries are organized neither alphabetically nor geographically, they provide a substantial introduction to such places as Iona in Scotland, Varanasi in India and Mount Sinai in Egypt that are sacred in religion, myth or legend. The Atlas contains an index, a gazetteer and a bibliography—all at the back.

GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHOLOGY


Focusing on the mythology of Ancient Greece and Rome and arranging entries alphabetically by such topics as Leda, Odysseus and Thebes, Crowell’s Handbook aims to tell the stories of classical mythology rather than interpret or analyze them. Bulky at more than 600 pages, the Handbook packs in a great range of entries, however, and is an excellent quick reference source. It includes a pronunciation index, as well as maps of Ancient Greece, Italy and the Mediterranean World.
Covering more than 1,000 topics, this *Dictionary of Classical Mythology* presents summaries of myths along with lists of mythical characters and any related symbols.


A translation of the *Dictionnaire de la Mythologie Grecque et Romaine.* A dictionary of names in classical mythology along with the myths, figures and attributes to which they are associated. Includes extensive bibliographical references, genealogical tables, and a general index.


This 10-volume, German-language encyclopedia provides comprehensive coverage of classical mythology. Entries are often five to ten pages in length. The encyclopedia includes black and white illustrations.


Use this book to find out more about obscure women (e.g. Anaxarete) or groups of women (e.g. Chthoniae) in classical mythology. Packed with more than 26,000 entries, and bolstered by an appendix called *The Men in Their Lives* to help make connections between male and female characters, this dictionary is a handy classical source. While there is no formal bibliography, the author has peppered citations throughout the entries, and the introduction, helpful in itself as a guide to women in classical mythology, provides a brief list of key sources.


This is a useful A-Z geographic guide to Greek mythology.


*CELTIC, BRITISH, AND IRISH MYTHOLOGY*
Bracketed between a useful introduction to Celtic society (p. 9-22) and a fair-sized bibliography (p. 229-238), the *Dictionary of Celtic Myth and Legend* provides lengthy, illustrated entries organized alphabetically under 8 headings: *divinities, mythological beings, sacred animals, sites and sacred places, objects and symbols, natural phenomena, concepts and ideas,* and *religious persons.* The key to this simple 8-part arrangement is the subject index (p. 23-25).

For brief definitions of myths and figures in British and Irish mythology, this slim one-volume work is useful, and includes a decent bibliography (p. 169-176).

**NORSE AND GERMANIC MYTHOLOGY**

[Victoria E.J. Pratt Reference Area – BL850 .S5613 1993]

Covering the mythology of all Germanic tribes, Scandinavians, Angles, Goths and Saxons, the *Dictionary of Northern Mythology* provides lengthy entries with thorough bibliographic references.

[St. Michael’s 3rd Floor – BL860 .O73 1997 SMC]

Entries in this dictionary describe Norse sagas, gods and heroes, real and mythical places, and social and religious customs. A lengthy bibliography follows the entries.

*Norse Mythology*  
[Available online: http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~cherryne/mythology.html]

Covering a wide range of subjects, from mythic figures such as Aurvandil the Bold and Thor, the God of Thunder, to a chronology of Scandinavian mythology and an introduction to the Norse creation myth, this site is a well-documented reference tool providing both long and short articles.

**MIDDLE-EASTERN MYTHOLOGY**

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BL1060 .L44 1998]

Beginning with a brief chronology (p. xiii), the *Dictionary of Ancient Near Eastern Mythology* provides a useful A-Z guide to ancient mythology in what is now the Middle East, including Mesopotamia, Babylon, Sumeria, Assyria and Persia. Along with a substantial bibliography (p. 176-188) and an index, the *Dictionary* includes a glossary (p. 168-175). The entries vary in length from a few lines to a couple of pages.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BS680 .G57D53 1999]

This large, one volume encyclopedia contains an index and bibliographical references.

[St. Michael’s 1st Floor Reference Area – BL2428 .M47 1997]
Along with a useful introduction (p. xvii-xxi), a chronology of Ancient Egyptian Dynasties (p. xiii-xiv), and a thorough, annotated bibliography (p. 219-230), this A-Z dictionary provides a wide range of brief-to-medium-length entries on Egyptian mythological figures and deities.

**ASIAN MYTHOLOGY**


Ranging in length from a third of a page to 2 pages, the entries in the *Dictionary of Asian Mythology* cover Indian, Chinese, Hindu, Tibetan, Iranian, South-east Asian and other mythologies.


Focusing on the major terms and doctrines of Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism and Zen—four of Asia’s key religious traditions—this handy 1-volume *Encyclopedia* contains roughly 4,000 brief-to-medium-sized entries, including ones on mythological figures and events. In addition, the book contains a bibliography (p. 451-468), a lineage chart (p. 445-450) and more than 100 illustrations.


At a whopping 793 pages, and packed with articles ranging from a few lines to several pages in length, this A-Z *Classical Dictionary of India* is an important Hindu mythology source. Although dated, the book provides summaries of key myths, along with a glossary in the appendix.


With a short introduction to the subject and a selective list for further reading (p. 25-26), *Indian Mythology* is a useful source providing entries (such as Brahma and Veda) ranging in length from a few lines to several pages.


Look up Chinese mythology topics in English. Focusing mainly on Chinese deities, this A-Z *Dictionary of Chinese Mythology* provides the Chinese name for each entry, along with a list of dynasties, a myth index, and a bibliography.
Covering all regions that border directly on the Pacific Ocean (almost one-third of the earth’s surface), *Pacific Mythology* contains entries on religion, ritual, beliefs, lore and folktales as well as mythology. Following an A to Z arrangement, the encyclopedia includes a sizable bibliography (p. 333-336).

**NATIVE AMERICAN MYTHOLOGY**

*Bibliography of Native North Americans.*
[Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/.
Search “all e-resources” for *Bibliography of Native North Americans.*]

The *Bibliography of Native North Americans* covers the history, life and culture of native North Americans. It contains over 80,000 citations to works published from the sixteenth century to the present, including books, essays, journal articles, dissertations and other publications.


Covers an area from the Arctic Circle south to Northern Mexico. Most entries appear with a bibliography. Includes useful maps and an index by tribe.

[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – E98 .R3H73 1991]

This work on Native American religions in general includes many articles about mythology.

**SLAVIC MYTHOLOGY**

[Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/.
Search “all e-resources” for *encyclopedia russian slavic myth.*]
[St. Michael's 1st Floor Reference Area – BL930 .D58 1998]

The *Encyclopedia of Russian and Slavic Myth and Legend* provides lengthy, illustrated A-Z entries on the myths and legends of Russia and other Slavic countries, such as Poland and Slovakia. Besides a good bibliography (p. 327-330), a glossary, a list of the rulers of Russia and an index, this thoroughly cross-referenced work contains a topic-finder (p. 337-352) which arranges entry-headings by both country (Ukraine) and category (Mythical places and objects).

[Robarts Library –BL930 .S86 1998]

A Polish-language dictionary of Slavic mythology.
AFRICAN MYTHOLOGY


Besides a vast array of African mythological stories, this A-Z collection includes a substantial list of sources (p. 281-295), a bibliography (p. 296-322) and indexes allowing you to look up myths by name (Isis), country of origin (Nigeria), language and culture (Swahili), or subject [under the heading *grand myth*] (fire, origin of).

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

To find articles in scholarly journals, magazines, newspapers, anthologies, collections and conference proceedings, the best place to go is an article database. To find articles related to your subject area, go to www.library.utoronto.ca/ and under the *Search for Articles* tab select *Option 1. Find the Best Article and Research Databases*. Scroll down to your subject area—i.e. *Mythology and Folklore*—and click GO. You’ll find a list of online databases containing relevant articles, as well as other online resources such as encyclopedias, dictionaries and research guides.

**MLA International Bibliography (Modern Language Association)**

The major database for world literature, the *MLA International Bibliography* covers criticism related to literature, linguistics and folklore from 1921 to the present, and contains more than 1-million citations to journal articles, series, books, working papers, and conference proceedings.

**ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials.**

With references to journal articles, essays in books, and book reviews in the field of religion, *ATLA* includes more than 6,000 citations related to ‘myth’ and ‘mythology.’

**Anthropology Plus**

*Anthropology Plus* lists medium-length articles and essays related to mythology, as well as archaeology, art history, demography, economics, psychology and religion.

**Anthropological Index**

Although this index refers you to many entries related to mythology, it provides no access to full-text online articles, so if you’re in a rush, this index may not be worthwhile. Make sure you click *all years*, unless you want to limit your search by publication date.
**Humanities Abstracts.**
[Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/. Search “e-resources” for *Humanities Abstracts.*]

*Humanities Abstracts* covers 400 English-language journals related to such areas as mythology, religion, philosophy, history, archaeology, classical studies, linguistics and art. Although it is a useful general humanities index, *Humanities Abstracts* covers articles only from 1994 to the present.

**Bibliography of Native North Americans.**
[Available online for UofT use only: www.library.utoronto.ca/. Search “e-resources” for *Bibliography of Native North Americans.*]

The *Bibliography of Native North Americans* covers the history, life and culture of native North Americans. It contains over 80,000 citations to works published from the sixteenth century to the present, including books, essays, journal articles, dissertations and other publications.

This research guide is maintained by Richard Carter (richard.carter@utoronto.ca). It was last updated October 2010.
BEFORE READING

1. Do students know the word mythology? In what context have they heard it? Encourage them to draw as widely as possible on their own cultural references. Students may, for instance, be familiar with stories, books, films, comic strips, or the computer game Age of Mythology. Invite them to share the myths they know with a partner or in a small group.

2. After discussing students’ prior knowledge of the subject, ask them to propose a definition for mythology. Encourage them to use a range of dictionaries to check it... Have students research Medusa’s story, then lead a class discussion reviewing major points, including why her hair was turned into a nest of snakes. Myths Mythology research guide. What to find here: tips on database research and links to useful websites for mythology projects. Databases. Step 1: access and select the databases for mythology research. These 2 databases that are particularly good for mythology: Oxford reference online. Watch this tutorial on how to find these two databases: ACCESSING & SELECTING DATABASES FOR MYTHOLOGY RESEARCH [3min 16sec].

Step 2: search smart! Look for these helpful database features. ORGANIZATION - Are there navigational aids for your search? SUBJECT TERMS - How does the database categorize the information you need?