

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY

OF THE AMERICAN LANGUAGE

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**myth** (mith) *n.* [LL. *mythos* < Gr. *mythos*, a word, speech, story, legend] 1. a traditional story of unknown authorship, ostensibly with a historical basis, but serving usually to explain some phenomenon of nature, the origin of man, or the customs, institutions, religious rites, etc. of a people: myths usually involve the exploits of gods and heroes: cf. LEGEND 2. such stories collectively; mythology 3. any fictitious story, or unscientific account, theory, belief, etc. 4. any imaginary person or thing spoken of as though existing