

FLOWERS IN MYTHOLOGY

Many flowers from around the world appear in mythology. The anemone, carnation, hyacinth, lily, lotus, narcissus, poppy, rose, sunflower, and violet are among those that are associated with stories or customs from various cultures.



Anemone



Carnation



Lotus



Rose



Violet



Poppy



Narcissus



Sunflower



Hyacinth



Lily

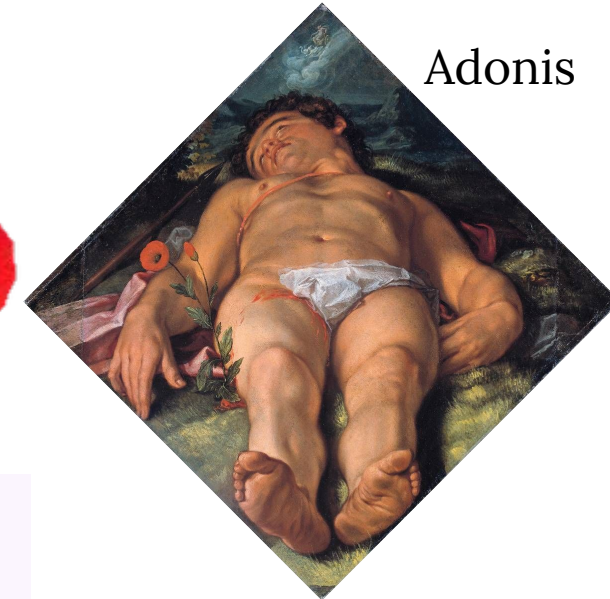
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ANEMONE

Greek **mythology** linked the red anemone, sometimes called the windflower, to the death of Adonis (**pronounced uh-DON-is**). This handsome young man was loved by both Persephone (pronounced **per-SEF-uh-nee**), **queen of** the underworld, and Aphrodite (**pronounced af-ro-DYE-tee**), goddess of love. Adonis enjoyed hunting, and one day when he was out hunting alone, he wounded a fierce boar, which stabbed him with its tusks. Aphrodite heard the cries of her lover and arrived to see Adonis **bleeding** to death. Red anemones sprang from the earth where the drops of Adonis's blood fell. In another version of the story, the anemones were white before the death of Adonis, whose blood **turned** them red. Christians later adopted the symbolism of the anemone. For them its red represented the blood shed by Jesus Christ on the cross. Anemones sometimes appear in paintings of the crucifixion.

The text is taken from: UXL Encyclopedia of World Mythology



Adonis

Find the synonyms to the following words (click on them in the text):

- Accepted ✓
- Appeared ✓
- Damaged ✓
- Fables ✓
- Land of the dead ✓
- Metaphor ✓
- Swine ✓
- Teeth ✓

Conversation corner.
Answer the questions

1. Why do people create myths?
2. Why do religions adopt symbols?
3. Why is death connected to myths so much?

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CARNATION

Composed of tightly packed, fringed petals of white, yellow, pink, or red, carnations have many different meanings. To the Indians of Mexico, they are the “flowers of the dead,” and their fragrant blooms are piled around corpses being prepared for burial. For the Koreans, three carnations placed on top of the head are a form of divination or predicting the future. The flower that withers first indicates which phase of the person’s life will contain suffering and hardship. To the Flemish people of Europe, red carnations symbolize love, and a kind of carnation called a pink was traditionally associated with weddings.

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Day of the Dead

Find the English equivalents in the text (click on them in the text):

- Ароматный ✓
- Лепестки ✓
- Невзгоды ✓
- Погребение ✓
- Предсказание ✓
- Содержать ✓
- Увядает ✓
- Указывает ✓

Conversation corner.
Answer the questions

1. Why do many people like the Day of the Dead?
2. What associations have got with carnations?
3. Why don't Russian people like carnations?

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LOTUS

Lotus flowers, which bloom in water, can represent female sexual power and fertility as well as birth or rebirth. The ancient Egyptians portrayed the goddess Isis (**pronounced EYE-sis**) being born from a lotus flower, and they placed lotuses in the hands of their mummified dead—dried and preserved before burial—to represent the new life into which the dead souls had entered.

In Asian mythology the lotus often symbolizes the female sexual organs, from which new life is born. Lotuses appear in both Hindu and Buddhist mythology. Hindus refer to the god Brahma (**pronounced BRAH-muh**) as “lotus-born,” for he is said to have emerged from a lotus that was the navel, or center, of the universe. The lotus is also the symbol of the goddess Padma (**pronounced PAD-muh**), who appears on both Hindu and Buddhist monuments as a creative force.

The holiness of the flower is illustrated by the legend that when the Buddha walked on the earth he left lotuses in his trail instead of footprints. One myth about the origin of Buddha relates that he first appeared floating on a lotus. According to a Japanese legend, the mother of Nichiren (**pronounced NITCH-er-en**) became pregnant by dreaming of sunshine on a lotus. Nichiren founded a branch of Buddhism in the 1200s. The phrase “Om mani padme hum,” which both Hindus and Buddhists use in meditation, means “the jewel in the lotus” and can refer to the Buddha or to the mystical union of male and female energies.

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Choose if the following sentences are **truth (T)** or **false (F)**:

1. Lotus can't represent fertility **F** **CHECK**
2. Lotus was a symbol of new life for the dead **T** **CHECK**
3. Lotus appears only in Hindu mythology **F** **CHECK**
4. Padma is a symbol of a creative force **T** **CHECK**
5. Buddha had lotuses instead of footprints **T** **CHECK**
6. Nichiren got pregnant by dreaming of Buddha **F** **CHECK**
7. The phrase “Om mani padme hum” means “the sunshine on a floating lotus” **F** **CHECK**

Conversation corner. Answer the questions

1. **What associations have you got with Buddha?**
2. **Have you ever meditated?**
3. **How do you imagine a creative force?**



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Buddha

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LILY

To the ancient Egyptians, the trumpet-shaped lily was a symbol of Upper Egypt, the southern part of the country. In the ancient Near East, the lily was associated with Ishtar (*pronounced ISH-tahr*), also known as Astarte (*pronounced a-STAR-tee*), who was a goddess of creation and fertility. The Greeks and Romans linked the lily with the queen of the gods, called Hera (*pronounced HAIR-uh*) by the Greeks and Juno (*pronounced JOO-noh*) by the Romans. The lily was also one of the symbols of the Roman goddess Venus. In later times, Christians adopted the lily as the symbol of Mary, who became the mother of Jesus while still a virgin. Painters often portrayed the angel Gabriel handing Mary a lily, which became a Christian symbol of purity. Besides being linked to Mary, the lily was also associated with virgin saints and other figures of exceptional purity of body.

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Goddess Hera by Kira Mizuno

Find the antonyms in the text
(click on them in the text):

1. **Common** **exceptional**
2. **Demon** **angel**
3. **Destruction** **creation**
4. **Impiety** **purity**
5. **Sterility** **fertility**



Conversation corner. Answer the questions

1. **Why don't some people like lilies?**
2. **What was the most unusual lily you have ever seen?**
3. **What is purity when we talk about a saint?**
4. **Why did the Romans adopt Greek gods?**
5. **Give your ideas how an angel may look like if they existed**

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Find the word in the text by its description (click on them in the text):

1. the point or place where something begins – **origin**
2. the feeling of anger or bitterness which someone has when they think that another person is trying to take a lover or friend away from them – **jealousy**
3. intense sorrow, especially caused by someone's death – **grief**
4. a day or period of celebration with series of events – **festival**
5. pay public respect to – **honor**
6. covered with blood – **bloodstained**

Apollo and Hyacinthus



HYACINTH

The Greek myth of Hyacinthus (*pronounced high-uh-SINthuhs*) and Apollo (*pronounced uh-POL-oh*) tells of the origin of the hyacinth, a member of the lily family. Hyacinthus, a beautiful young man of Sparta, was loved by the sun god Apollo. One day the two were amusing themselves throwing a discus, a heavy disc used in Greek athletic games, when the discus struck Hyacinthus and killed him. Some accounts say that Zephyrus, the god of the west wind, directed the discus out of jealousy because he also loved Hyacinthus. While Apollo was deep in grief, mourning the loss of his companion, a splendid new flower rose out of the bloodstained earth where the young man had died. Apollo named it the hyacinth and ordered that a three-day festival, the Hyacinthia, be held in Sparta every year to honor his friend.

Conversation corner. Answer the questions

1. Do you know any other myths built on jealousy?
2. Why did the Greeks athletes compete naked?
3. What do you know about Sparta?

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NARCISSUS

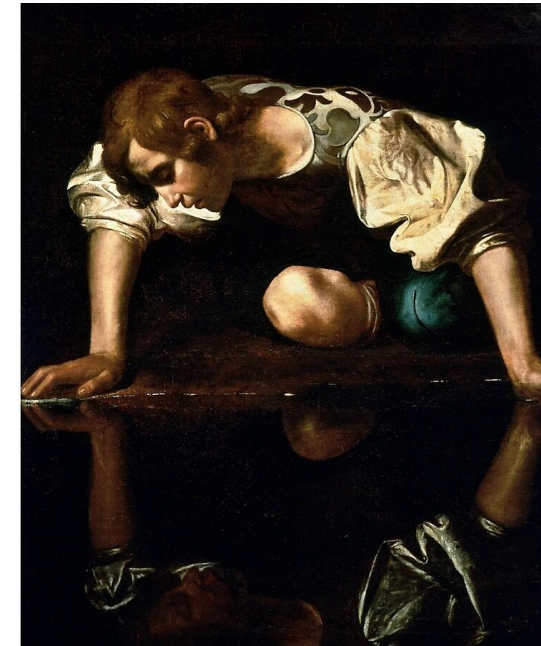
The Greek myth about the narcissus flower involves the gods' punishment of human shortcomings. Like the stories of Adonis and Hyacinth, it involves the transfer of life or identity from a dying young man to a flower.

Narcissus (*pronounced nar-SIS-us*) was an exceptionally attractive young man who scorned the advances of those who fell in love with him, including Echo (*pronounced EK-oh*), a nymph (female nature deity). His lack of sympathy for the pangs of those he rejected angered the gods, who caused him to fall in love with his own reflection as he bent over a pool of water. Caught up in self-adoration, Narcissus died—either by drowning as he tried to embrace his own image or by pining away at the edge of the pool. In the place where he had sat gazing yearningly into the water, there appeared a flower that the nymphs named the narcissus. It became a symbol of selfishness and coldheartedness. Today psychologists use the term “narcissist” to describe someone who directs his or her affections inward rather than toward other people.

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Find the word that will complete each row (click on them in the text):

1. Faults, flaws, sins – shortcomings
2. Removal, relocation – transfer
3. Shortage, absence – lack
4. Gorgeous, handsome – attractive
5. Goddess, idol – deity
6. Sensitivity, empathy – sympathy
7. Grasp, hug, cuddle – embrace
8. Denied, refused – scorned
9. Peering, glazing – gazing
10. Feelings, emotions – affections



Narcissus

Conversation corner. Answer the questions

1. Was Narcissus wrong to feel the way he felt?
2. Why are we all a bit Narcissuses ourselves?
3. Would the story be different if Narcissus was a girl?

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ROSE

The rose, a sweet-smelling flower that blooms on a thorny shrub, has had many meanings in mythology. It was associated with the worship of certain goddesses and was, for the ancient Romans, a symbol of beauty and the flower of Venus, the Roman goddess of love. The Romans also saw roses as a symbol of death and rebirth, and they often planted them on graves. When Christians adopted the rose as a symbol, it still carried connections with ancient mother goddesses. The flower became associated with Mary, the mother of Christ, who was sometimes addressed as the Mystic or Holy Rose. In time, the rose took on additional meanings in Christian symbolism. Red roses came to represent the blood shed by the martyrs who died for their faith; white ones stood for innocence and purity. One Christian legend says that roses originally had no thorns. But after the sin of Adam and Eve—for which they were driven out of the Garden of Eden—the rose grew thorns to remind people that they no longer lived in a state of perfection.

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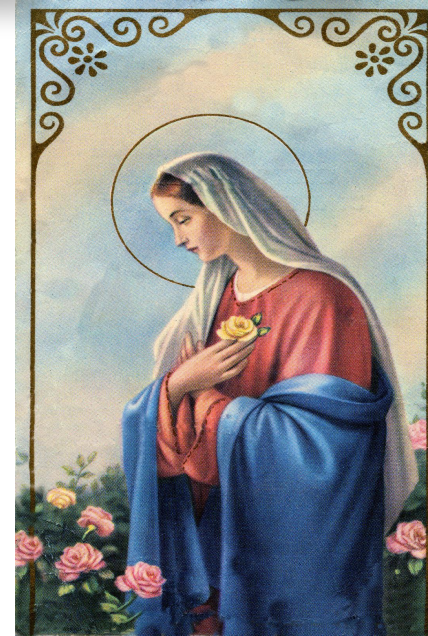
Play this **Memory Game** that focuses on interesting words from the text. Can you beat your teacher and find more pairs of flowers?

 SHRUB	 BLOOM	 WORSHIP	 THORNY
 REBIRTH	 GRAPE	 ADULT	 SHED
 MARTYR	 SCAPE	 INNOCENCE	 PERFECTION
 PURITY	 SEND FOR	 TAKE OUT	 ROSE
 FAITH	 REPRESENT	 SIN	 MIMIC ROSE

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Holy Mary with roses



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SUNFLOWER

Sunflowers turn their heads during the day, revolving slowly on their stalks to face the sun as it travels across the sky. The Greek myth of Clytie (*pronounced KLY-tee*) and Apollo, which exists in several versions, explains this movement as the legacy of a lovesick girl. Clytie, who was either a water nymph or a princess of the ancient city of Babylon, fell in love with Apollo, god of the sun. For a time the god returned her love, but then he tired of her. The forlorn Clytie sat, day after day, slowly turning her head to watch Apollo move across the sky in his sun chariot. Eventually, the gods took pity on her and turned her into a flower. In some versions of the myth, she became a heliotrope or a marigold, but most accounts say that Clytie became a sunflower.

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THE CODE WORD IS:

L O V E S I C K

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Clytie

Sunflower Game. Rotate the sunflower and explain the word on its petal. Each petal is giving you a hint to guess the code word. Click on the any letter after explaining the word.

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POPPY

A type of poppy native to the Mediterranean region yields a substance that can be turned into opium, a drug that was used in the ancient world to ease pain and bring on sleep. The Greeks associated poppies with both Hypnos (*pronounced HIP-nohs*), god of sleep, and Morpheus (*pronounced MOR-fee-uhs*), god of dreams. Morphine, a drug made from opium, gets its name from Morpheus.

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Hypnos bringing a boy to sleep

Is it a dream? Try guessing if the fact or thing exist or it is just someone's dream. There are 10 rounds to guess



=10= True



There is! And it looks really better than a wet dog!

SO, IS IT A
DREAM

OR
TRUE?

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FLOWERS IN MYTHOLOGY

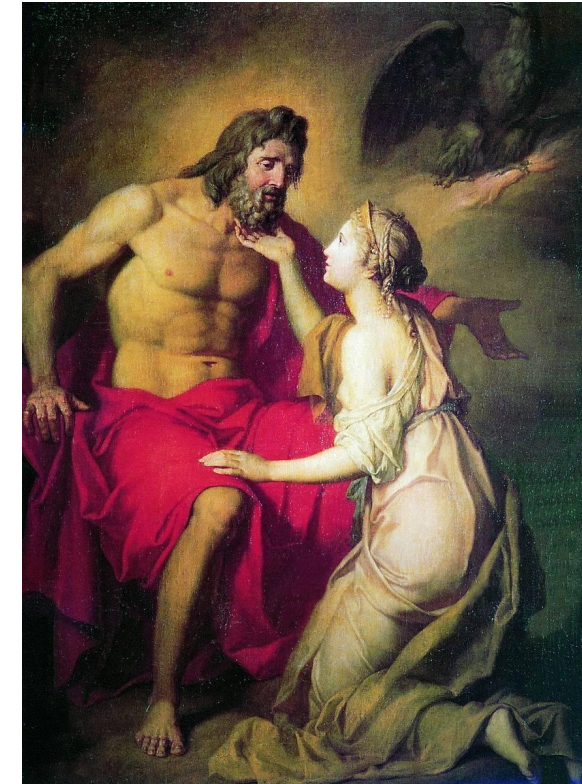
VIOLET

The violet, which grows low to the ground and has small purple or white flowers, appeared in an ancient Near Eastern myth that probably inspired the Greek and Roman myth of Aphrodite (*pronounced af-ro-DYE-tee*) and Adonis. According to this story, the great mother goddess Cybele (*pronounced SIB-uh-lee*) loved Attis, who was killed while hunting a wild boar. Where his blood fell on the ground, violets grew. The Greeks believed that violets were sacred to the god Ares (*pronounced AIR-eez*) and to Io (*pronounced EE-oh*), one of the many human loves of Zeus (*pronounced ZOOS*). Later, in Christian symbolism, the violet stood for the virtue of humility, or humble modesty, and several legends tell of violets springing up on the graves of virgins and saints. European folktales associate violets with death and mourning.

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M	O	V	E	B	O	A	R	F	L
O	W	S	L	I	N	G	M	O	O
D	N	A	G	E	A	O	Y	L	V
E	E	C	R	V	M	D	T	K	E
S	R	R	E	I	I	D	H	T	V
T	R	E	E	L	N	E	H	A	I
Y	W	D	K	E	G	S	I	L	R
S	P	R	O	U	T	S	S	E	T
H	U	M	I	L	I	T	Y	S	U
M	O	U	R	N	I	N	G	R	E



Zeus and Io

Wordsearch. Find 10 words from the text in the field. Click on the first letters to highlight the word.

COUNT
WORDS
FOUND



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