

Mythology

Version 1.2

Norse Mythology

Asgard	Home of the gods.
Bifrost	Rainbow bridge between Asgard and Midgard.
Fenrir/Fenris	Huge wolf, son of Loki.
Jörmungandr	The “Midgard Serpent,” a child of Loki. Encircles the world in the ocean.
Midgard	“Middle Earth,” the realm where humans live.
Mjolnir	Thor’s short-handled hammer.
Ragnarök	The “twilight of the gods,” the end of the world, in which the Aesir will battle the giants until fire destroys the earth.
Sleipnir	Eight-legged horse, the steed of Odin and child of Loki.
Valhalla	Odin’s hall of heroes, where half of those killed in battle go after death.
Valkyries	Mystical women who decide who dies on the battlefield, and bring half of them to Valhalla.
Yggdrasil	The Tree of Life.

Norse Mythology: The Aesir (Gods)

Odin	The “Sky Father;” father of the gods
Thor	Chief of the gods; god of thunder; son of Odin.
Frigg/Frigga	Odin’s wife; the archetypical wife and mother
Baldr	Frigg’s favorite son.
Loki	Trickster.
Tyr	God of war; son of Odin.

Norse Mythology: Stories

Baldr and Loki

- Afraid that Baldr may die, Frigg made everything on Earth promise not to harm him, but she forgot the seemingly harmless mistletoe. While Baldr and his friends were playing a game, Loki convinced Hodr, Baldr’s brother, to join in by throwing a spear of mistletoe into the group. It hit Baldr and killed him.
- As punishment for his deed, Loki was chained underneath the dripping fangs of a poisonous serpent. His wife caught the poison in a bowl, but whenever she empties it, the poison drips on Loki’s head and he writhes in pain, causing earthquakes.

Ragnarök

- Loki will break free of the chains that bind him to lead the giants against the Aesir.
- Odin will be swallowed by Fenrir.
- Thor will kill Jormungandr, but be mortally wounded in the process. He will walk nine steps before dying from the serpent’s poison.
- The world will burn, and all life will be destroyed, with the exception of two humans who will repopulate the world.

Odin

- Questing for knowledge, Odin sacrificed an eye and hung himself from Yggdrasil for nine days, pierced by his own spear.

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Egyptian Mythology

Note that Egyptian religion changed drastically over time. The following is a summary of what are currently the best-known gods of that religion. Many of these gods merged with each other, or with other gods not listed, in later religion.

Ra	God of the sun. Later merged with Horus.
Osiris	Chief god; son of Seb and Nut. Took on the appearance of a mummy as the god of the dead.
Isis	Sister and wife of Osiris; associated with motherhood and marriage.
Set/Seth	God of evil and darkness; brother of Osiris.
Anubis	Jackal-headed god who guided the dead to the underworld.
Horus	Falcon-headed god of the sun; son of Osiris and Isis.
Geb/Seb	The Earth
Nut	The Sky

Egyptian Mythology: Stories

Set was jealous of Osiris's standing, and invited him to a feast in Osiris's honor. Set presented a fabulous box, and told his dinner guests that whoever fit into it best could keep it. Osiris tried it out, and Set nailed him in and threw the box into the Nile. Isis searched for it and found it holding up a palace's roof in Byblos. She brought Osiris back to life, but he died again and Set ripped his body into fourteen pieces. Isis searched throughout Egypt and found thirteen of the pieces, though she never found his phallus. Osiris traveled into the world of the dead and became its ruler.

Miscellaneous Mythologies

African

- Anansi: a trickster, often in the form of a spider.

Aztec

- Quetzalcoatl: Cortez was mistaken for this "feathered serpent" god.
- Tezcatlipoca: Embodiment of evil, carried a smoking mirror. Associated with the Jaguar God.

Mayan

- Popol Vuh: the Mayan sacred book.

North American

- Coyote and Raven: trickster gods.