

# What patterns exist in myths?



From <http://members.bib-arch.org>

# Natural Elements

Explanation: Elements found in nature are often used symbolically in myths.



From <http://minhquach94.deviantart.com/art/Piece-11-Symbols-of-Nature>

# Natural Elements

Examples: **Earth** – mother, creation, life, knowledge, nourishment



From [www.mahataka.org](http://www.mahataka.org)

Gardens,  
forests



Trees

From [www.landofpyramids.org](http://www.landofpyramids.org)



From [userealbutter.com](http://userealbutter.com)

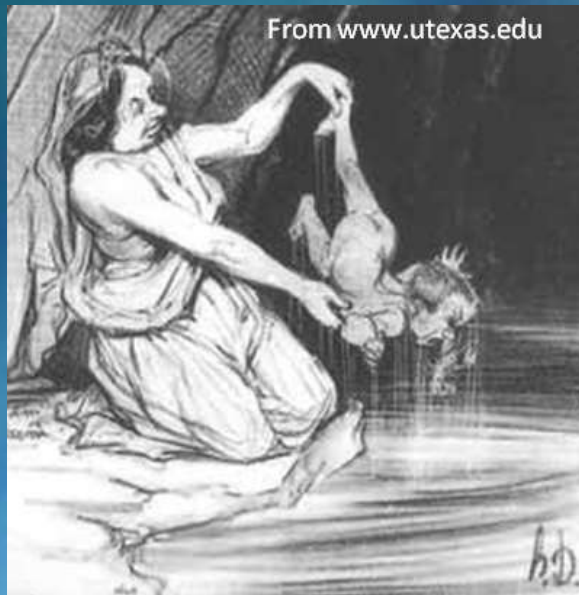
Seeds,  
fruit

# Natural Elements

More examples: **Water** – cleansing, mystery, life

**Fire (sun)** – change, purification

**Air/wind** – breath, life, holy spirit



Thetis dipping her son Achilles  
into the River Styx



A phoenix dies, turns to ashes,  
and is reborn in fire

From smokeslair.com

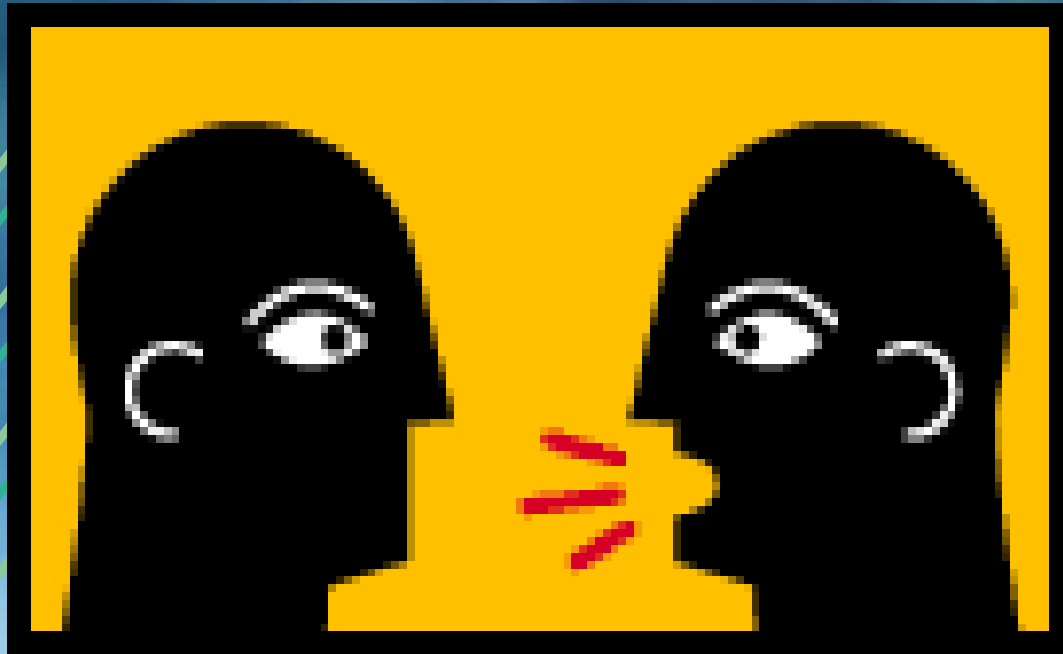


Isis blowing life back into her  
dead husband, Osiris

From religionerd.com

# Natural Elements

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?



# Animals

Explanation: In myths, animals can represent human qualities, distractions, or desires. The animals used vary depending on the culture.



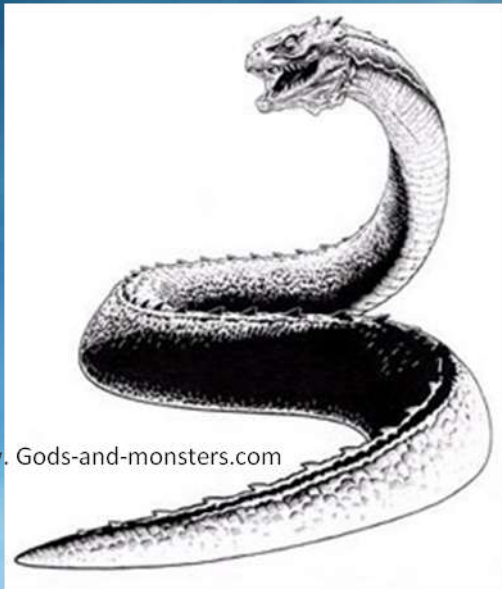
From <http://muddycolors.blogspot.com>

# Animals

Examples: **Serpent** – evil, mystery, wisdom

**Spiders & their webs** – weaving fate, creation, evil

**Birds** – power, freedom, link to the gods, death, peace, creation



From [www.Gods-and-monsters.com](http://www.Gods-and-monsters.com)



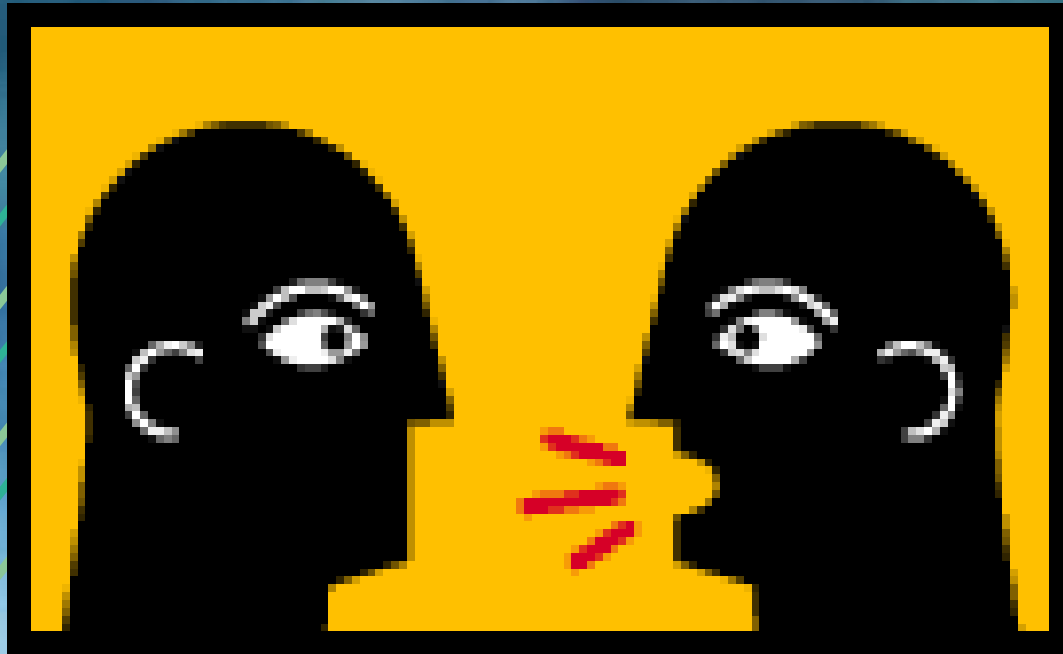
From [www.museum.state.il.us](http://www.museum.state.il.us)



From [www.flickr.com/photos/mharrsch](http://www.flickr.com/photos/mharrsch)

# Animals

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?





# Colors

Explanation: Colors are often used symbolically in myths.



From <http://norse-mythology.org>

# Colors

Examples: **Black** – chaos, mystery, death, evil  
**White** – purity, innocence, supernatural, spiritual

Anubis, the ancient Egyptian God of the Afterlife, is depicted with a black jackal's head.



From [www.ancient-egypt.org](http://www.ancient-egypt.org)

Pegasus, the horse that carries lightning for Zeus, is depicted in white.



From [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

# Colors

More examples: **Red** – blood, sacrifice, violent passion

**Green** – growth and fertility OR death & decay



From en.wikipedia.org

The ancient Egyptian goddess, Sekhmet, got the title “The Scarlet Lady” because of her lust for blood.

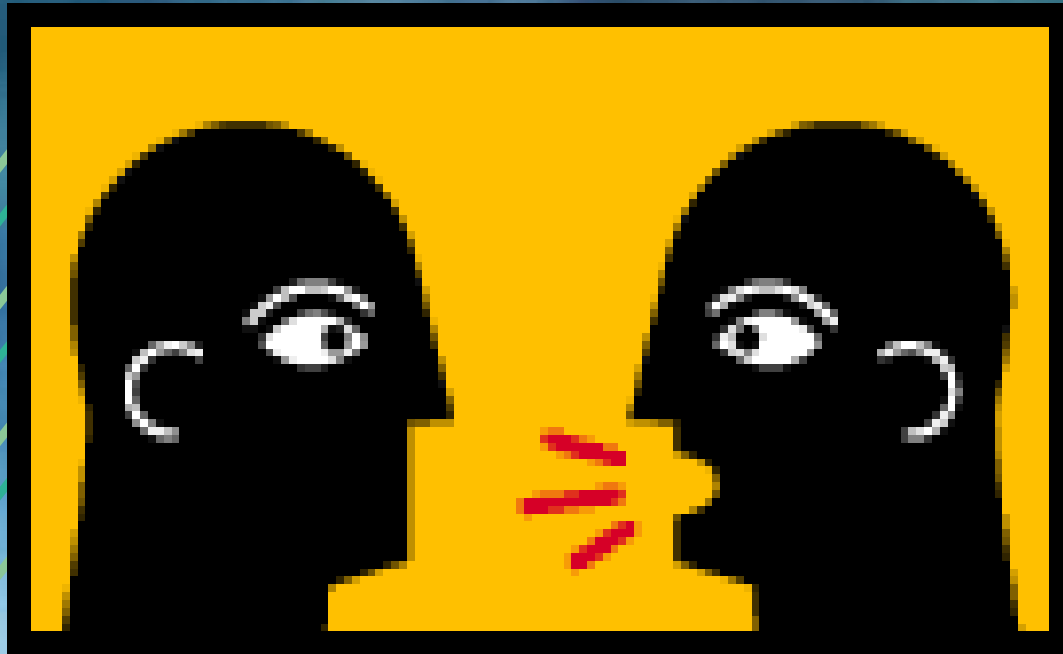


Osiris, the ancient Egyptian ruler of the underworld and rebirth was usually depicted with green skin.

From en.wikipedia.org

# Colors

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?



# Circles

Explanation: Circles are often used in myths to represent cycles, unity, and life.



From <http://www.windows2universe.org>

# Circles

Examples: **Seasons** – occur in a cycle  
& **Yang** – represent duality and unity **Life**  
– often depicted as a continuous cycle of death and rebirth



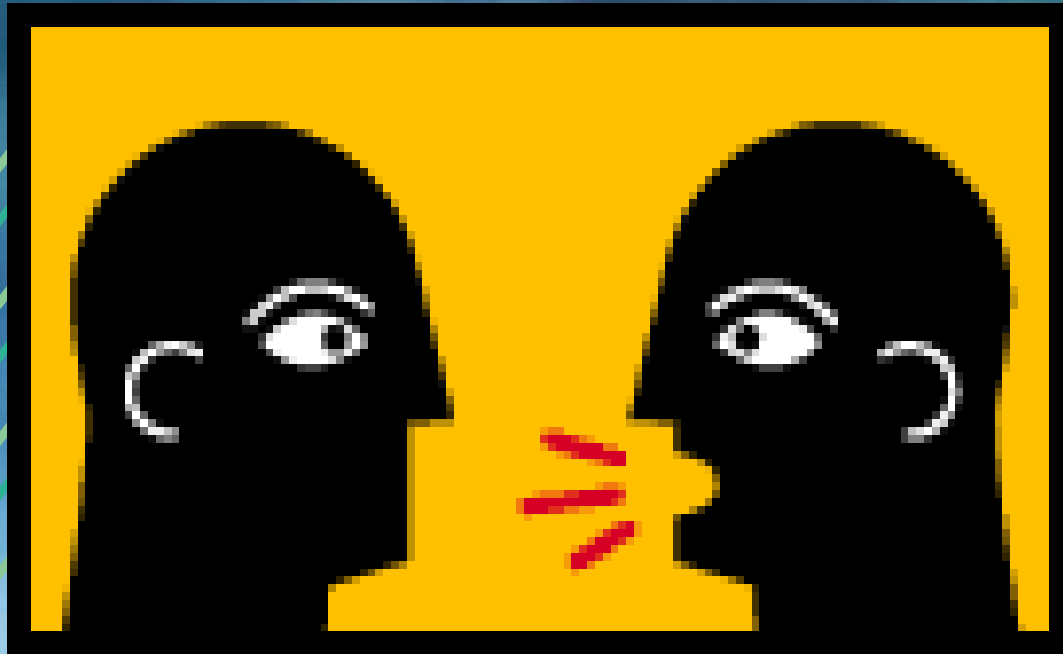
From <http://www.morning-earth.org>



From [www.gayaglobal.org](http://www.gayaglobal.org)

# Circles

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?



# Creation

Explanation: Creation myths explain why things exist or why things are the way they are.



From [www.englisharticles.info](http://www.englisharticles.info)



From [www.eso-garden.com](http://www.eso-garden.com)



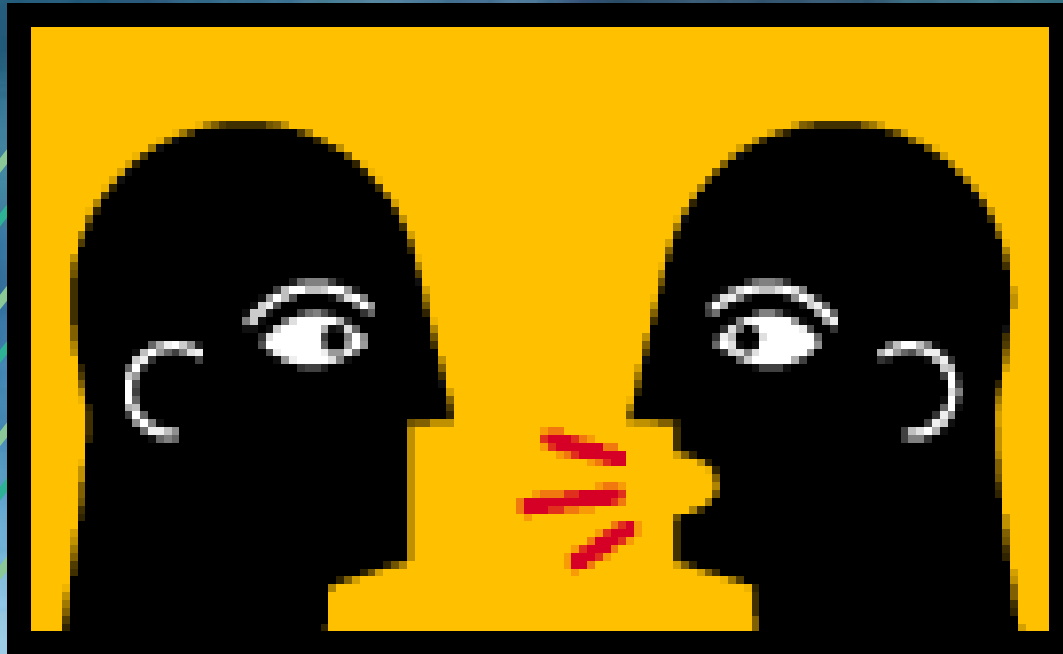
# Creation

Example: “The World on Turtle’s Back” in an Iroquois myth describes how the Earth was grown on a turtle’s back.



# Creation

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?



# Heroes

Explanation: Mythological heroes complete a difficult task despite temptations and receive a reward upon completion.



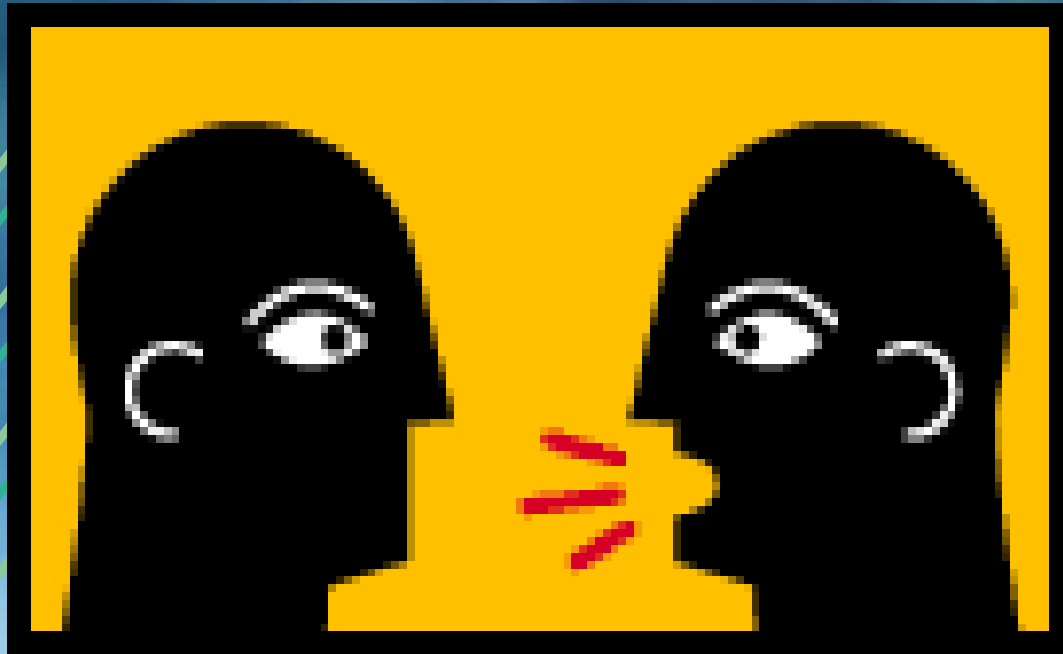
# Heroes

Example: Hercules faced 12 labors which included battling several beasts. Upon completion, he was awarded immortality.



# Heroes

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?



# Females

Explanation: Normally, the female archetype takes one of two forms: Good or Evil



From <http://www.usatoday.com>

# Females

Examples: **Good** – mother, beautiful, protection, life

**Evil** – witches, sirens, spinners/weavers, ugly, danger, death



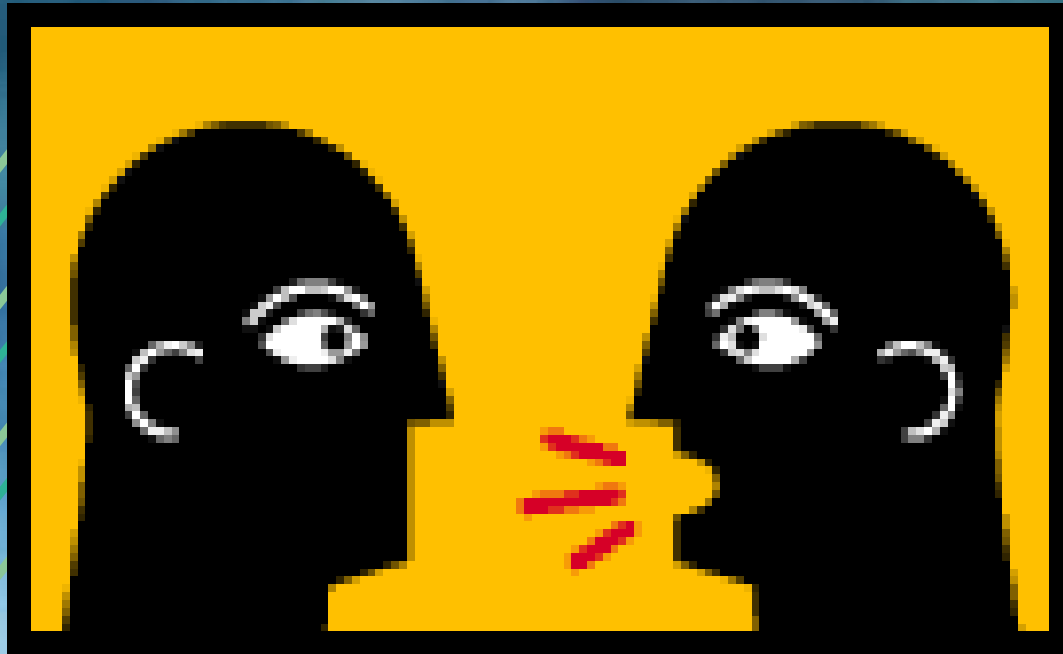
From mythologian.net

From shmoop.com



# Females

Turn and talk: Where have you seen it?



End of presentation