**UNIT 23 How Archaeology and Mythology are Related.**

**The Question of Time**

**WARM-UP EXERCISE.** *Discuss your ideas with your instructor and fellow students in class.*

* How are archaeology and mythology related?
* How is culture related to mythology and archaeology?
* Is history related to mythology? If so, how?

**NOTES.**

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………...……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**NAVIGATION. KEY TERMS.** *Study the following words prior to reading the text*.

***must needs* (*archaic expression*, used as an adverb)**:must necessarily

***per se***: (Latin) by itself, in itself; by themselves, in themselves

***in illo tempore***: (Latin) in that time, at that time (before recorded history)

**primitive**: belonging to an early time in the very ancient past; belonging to a [preliterate](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sca_esv=41d00d5a24387526&q=preliterate&si=AKbGX_okpkrXRdHQwZu4Fe0iRe3uBz07CgUKXSZODozOA4UfmZ5CuUkIV-fTGqVtCvqX21n18SOAYMeZJD_IyGOEwNM2ncQdhkDpHaBrKR4xzcoIX2NYb-I%3D&expnd=1), [non-industrial](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sca_esv=41d00d5a24387526&q=non-industrial&si=AKbGX_plOwDP0zNrKp9MfsWGLhHNriZ9-Ju4_A7SLL0YqrmJRhNkg-9ylIOMEqQon6ZP7LwM3NfCGt4hHg3kImmyqyC4DXwU7TLxaG8jdPktN3RAgMc7K1A%3D&expnd=1) society

**archaic**: dating back to an ancient period in history

**IDIOMS WITH ‘TIME’**

**in time**: in good time, promptly

**on time**: punctually, at the right time

**time flies**: time goes by quickly

**in the nick of time**: at the last possible moment

**turn back the hands of time**: go back to the past

**save time**: not waste time, do something quickly

**spare time**: free time

**as time goes by**: as time passes

**time for a change**: stop what you are doing and start doing something else/new

**time heals all wounds**: our emotional wounds will be healed as time passes

**too much time on my hands**: having too much free time and not enough things to do

**READING Mythology – History - Archaeology**

Mythology is part of societies’ culture, as are music, literature, customs, beliefs, religion and rituals, among other things. It may also be part of cultural anthropology studies. Given that archaeologists ‘need to have a good general working understanding of the societies they investigate’, interested in finding out how people used to live and behave in the remote past, based on the material finds they discover, it is likely that they have some knowledge about their religion and mythology, although mythology is not science *per se*.

A fair amount of archaeological research has taken place, based on ancient texts and, at times, on myths. For example, Homer’s *Iliad* seems to have sparked Heinrich Schliemann’s attempt to find Troy, combining myth with historical evidence in his archaeological venture.

‘Myth’ needs to be defined, when speaking of culture, since today the general feeling about its meaning is rather ambivalent. Historian of religion, humanist, philosopher, and novelist Mircea Eliade in his work *Myths, Dreams, and Mysteries* expounds on the meaning of myth in ‘“primitive” and archaic societies’, as a ‘true history of what came to pass at the beginning of Time, and one which provides the pattern for human behaviour.’ Looking at it this way, a myth is a story based on what was held to be true, representing reality, which was expressed in a way appropriate to a society’s culture, perceptions and understanding of the world around them.

Hence, mythology and history seem to share the same root, as it were, philosophically and ontologically, by projecting creation, becoming, evolution in a co-existing time-frame: *‘in illo tempore’* as well as ‘now’. Thus, in a sense, through myths we can bring forth and relive the past in an ambient of presentness. If myths carry the history of peoples’ cultures, then, we can also notice patterns of human behaviour that repeat themselves in human history and learn from them.

**TASKS.**

**Task 1.** *Complete the sentences using the information given in the text above*.

1. Mythology is ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….…………….
2. Archaeologists are interested in finding out ………………………………………………………………………………
3. A fair amount of archaeological research is based …………………………………………………………………
4. ‘Myth’ is a *true history of what came to pass at the* …………………………………………………………….
5. A myth is a story based on what was held to be …………………………………………………………………………

**Task 2.** *Match the words with their definitions*.

**Definitions**

1. capacity **a.** relate to; be connected with; worry
2. ability **b.** capability; skill; proficiency
3. required **c.** called for; needed; necessary
4. familiarity **d.** teaching; coaching; instruction
5. subject **e.** ability; space; position
6. species **f.** sort; genus; group
7. concern **g.** obtain; get; come by
8. training **h.** form; arrangement; organization
9. acquire **i.** theme; branch of knowledge; course of study
10. structure **j.** acquaintance with; knowledge of; intimacy

**Task 3.** *Team Work or Individual Work*.

**(a)** Use the internet or other resources to find some general information on Mythology and/or one myth.

**(b)** Remember to make a note of the wording as well as the link you will use, to find your online information. If you use a different source, write down the name of the author, the title of the book/article and journal, date of publication, publishers, page numbers. In this way, you will know where to look for it next time.

**(c)** Make a note of the words you wish to learn.

**(d)** Write a summary of the information you will find. You can use some quotations directly from your source.

**Task 4.** *Writing*.

Choose *one* of the two Situations.

- *Sample Situation*: You are a character (e.g., a hero or a deity) in a myth that you like.

*- Preparation*: Write down your reasons why you have chosen that particular character.

*- Procedure*: Discuss your ideas with your instructor and fellow students.

OR:

- *Sample situation*: Say which is *one* of your favourite myths.

*- Preparation*: Write down what interests you in that particular myth.

*- Procedure*: Discuss your ideas with your instructor and fellow students.

**Task 5.** *Food for thought*.

Read the following idea and discuss it in class.

**The Question of Time**

Time is a human concept, filtering our perception of events happening sequentially in space.

Imagine our world with no time-sequence or definite time-frames and limits but only a continuum, a constant “now”, where all is happening, developing, changing (or seemingly remaining changeless) in the present. Such a notion of time would render the whole of creation timeless, or beyond time.

- If our perception and sense of time as a limitless, continuous flow replaced our habitual sense of clock time, do you think that the science of history and archaeology – moreover, our own life - would still be the same?

- Bearing in mind that Archaeology investigates artifacts of both prehistoric as well as historical times, what would be the meaning of ‘context’ as understood in archaeology, in an *ahistorical* world?

- How important is it for humans that events should be defined by time?