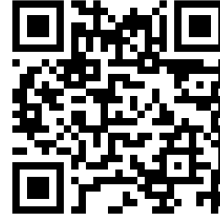


Gilgamesh – the King Who Searched for Immortality

Subjects: English · History · Ethics | recommended from age 14 (B1) | Video: 8:41 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/lePB55AjVTQ

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

A • Before watching

1. Imagine you could live forever. Would you want to? Give a short reason.

B • While watching

1. Who was Gilgamesh, and how much of him was divine?

2. Why did the gods create Enkidu?

3. What made Gilgamesh start searching for eternal life?

4. What test did Utnapishtim give him – and what happened?

5. What happened to the plant, and what does the myth explain with it?

Useful words

immortality	Unsterblichkeit	to shed its skin	sich häuten
tyrant	Tyrann	legacy	Vermächtnis
to grieve	trauern	clay tablet	Tontafel
flood	Flut	to oppress	unterdrücken

C • Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Enkidu falls ill and dies in Gilgamesh's arms.
	A snake eats the plant and sheds its skin.
	As king of Uruk, Gilgamesh oppresses his own people.
	He dives to the bottom of the sea and finds the plant of youth.
	The gods create Enkidu to balance the king's power.
	Gilgamesh looks at the walls of Uruk that he had built.
	After a wrestling match that nobody wins, the two become friends.
	Gilgamesh travels to the edge of the world to find Utnapishtim.

D • Think and discuss

1. Did Gilgamesh fail in the end – or did he find something more important? Explain.

2. What remains of people after they die? Give examples from history and everyday life.

E • Two flood stories

Utnapishtim tells the story of a great flood. Compare it with the story of Noah (Bible, Genesis 6–9).

	Epic of Gilgamesh (Utnapishtim)	Bible (Noah)
Who decides to send the flood?		
Who is warned and builds a boat?		
Who or what is saved?		
What happens after the flood?		

F • Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write Gilgamesh's diary entry on the evening the snake ate the plant (8–10 sentences). How does he feel? What does he think about Enkidu and about himself?

Teacher's notes and answer key

Answers B

1. King of the Sumerian city of Uruk; two-thirds god, one-third human – and still mortal.
2. He ruled as a tyrant and his people begged the gods for help; Enkidu was meant to balance him.
3. The death of his friend Enkidu – it makes him afraid of his own death.
4. To stay awake for six days and seven nights. He falls asleep almost at once.
5. A snake eats it while he is washing and sheds its skin, young again. The myth uses this to explain why snakes shed their skin.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

D1: Open discussion. The video reads the ending as a turning point: in the city walls he built, Gilgamesh finds another kind of immortality – his work and legacy.

E: Gilgamesh – an assembly of gods decides; one god secretly warns Utnapishtim; his family, craftsmen and animals of every kind are saved; reward: immortality. Bible – God decides; Noah is warned and builds the ark; his family and animals in pairs are saved; afterwards God's covenant (rainbow). The flood tablet (Tablet XI) was deciphered by George Smith in 1872 and is centuries older than the biblical texts.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 14. The video briefly mentions that the king supposedly claimed a right to every new bride, and the decay of Enkidu's body. Please preview the video.

Source of the retelling: Epic of Gilgamesh (Standard Babylonian version, Tablets I–XI).

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.