**Write your own Myth**

A **myth** is a made-up story that explains the existence of a natural phenomenon — such as where thunder comes from or why snow falls from the sky. Myths — which often include gods and goddesses and other supernatural characters who have the power to make extraordinary things happen — are popular even when people know the actual reasons for natural phenomena. Before humans found scientific explanations for such things as the moon and the sun and rainbows, they tried to understand them by telling stories.

Steps to creating your own myth:

1. **Pick out the natural phenomenon you want to write about.**  
   Make it something that really interests you. If you live in the desert, you might want to think about the way a single rainstorm can cause a flood. If you live in the North, think about the way a snowstorm can cover the ground like an icy blanket. If you live near the ocean, consider the way the tide comes in and out each day. In other words, find something that is familiar that you can observe.

**Possible ideas:**

* **How day and night originated**
* **How hot and cold came about**
* **Why days are shorter in winter**

1. **Write down what is actual/true about the phenomenon.**  
   Keep a record of what you have observed or read. What are the smells, sights, and sounds connected to this natural phenomenon? Think of yourself as a reporter, not a storyteller.
2. **Start Writing!**

Pretend you have an audience of the king's court before you. Or that you are in a cave with other cave painters trying to summon the sun or the rain. Using your brainstorming observations and ideas, write a story that explains a phenomenon in the natural world that you've experienced or witnessed on TV. You can pick almost anything — a snowstorm, an earthquake, or even a rainy day.

