

KS1

KS2

English

Suitable any tide

## Learning Outcomes

After taking part in this activity children will understand how stories can offer a different perspective on local history and the natural world.

## Introduction

What's the difference between a myth and a legend? Basically a myth is a made-up tale which usually attempts to explain some thing or some process that people did not understand, whereas a legend incorporates a grain of truth and often features a person or a recognisable landmark.

Myths and legends give shape to our past and the world around us. They help create a sense of place and cultural identity offering a shared ancestral memory. But stories are not static, they can change, become adapted and of course new stories are created all the time.

Coastal areas, such as Thanet, provide a rich source of tales having fired imaginations for thousands of years with stories of smuggling, invaders, ghost ships, sea monsters and pirates.

The audio stories contained in Resource 10 offer two marine myths, an enchanting tale of a hermit crab's shell, and two local legends about smuggling. You can use these stories to inspire children's writing, as discussion about different beliefs or as simple entertainment.

## Before the visit

Listen to the stories. Do children think they are true? Are they accurate descriptions of natural phenomena such as the saltiness of the sea or the tides? How much of the legends do they think really happened?

## During the visit

Search for ideas, objects and places that could be used to inspire a tale of a sea creature or a story that attempts to explain something.



## After the visit

Use ideas gathered during the visit to produce a myth or legend for retelling in the classroom.

## Resources

Resources 10: Maritime Myths and Local Legends, Five Audio Stories:

- [Hermit Wants a Shell](#)
- [Sun, Moon and Water](#)
- [Why the Sea is Salty](#)
- [Joss Snelling the Smuggler](#)
- [The Smuggler's Leap](#)

