

Norse Mythology

The Beginning and the End

Almost all religions have their version of how the world was created. Some religions even have stories of the end times. In Norse Mythology the end is called Ragnarök.



Book List:

1. Hotel Valhalla; Guide to the Norse Worlds by, Rick Riordan
2. Magnus Chase series by, Rick Riordan
3. Treasury of Norse Mythology by, Donna Jo Napoli
4. Thor Ragnarök

Website References

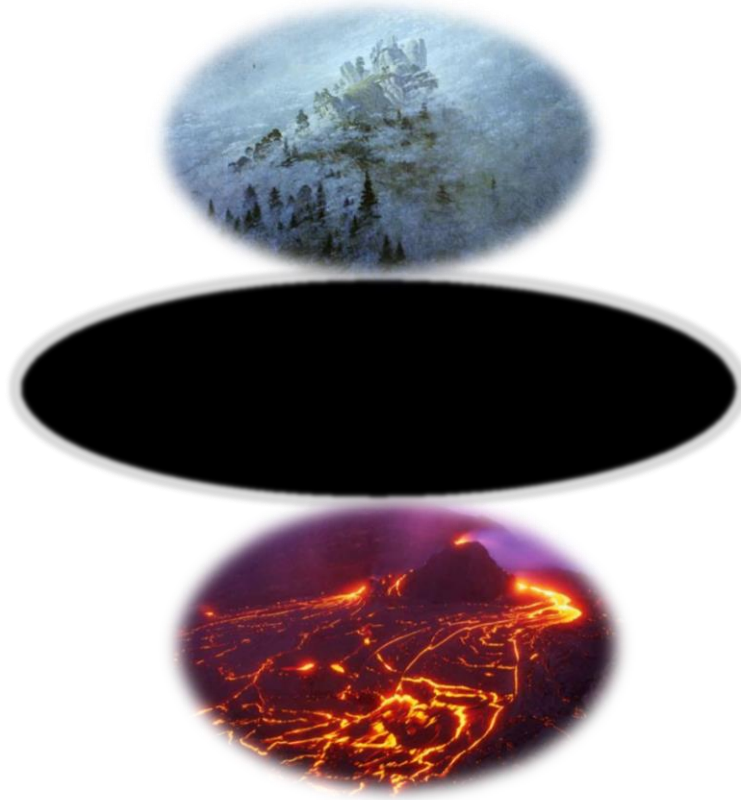
<https://norse-mythology.net/>

<https://norse-mythology.org/tales/norse-creation-myth/>

<https://norse-mythology.org/tales/ragnarok/>

Norse Mythology

The Creation of the Cosmos



Before the beginning of time, before the creation of gods, giants and other beings, there was a vast, dark emptiness called Gunungagap. To the north of Gunungagap lay Nifliheim, the icy world of mist and fog, and to the south lay Muspelheim, the land of fire. The lava began to flow north and the ice began to drip south. Ice and lava met in the gap and together formed Ymir, the first giant. Soon after, Buri, the first god, formed from a block of salty ice.

Giants and gods multiplied supernaturally. Buri's grandsons, Odin, Vili and Ve did not like that giants outnumbered the gods. They killed Ymir and all but two of the giants. From Ymir's body, the world was created.

Odin and his brothers were walking on the beach one day and saw two logs, one from an ash tree and one from an elm. Odin gave the logs spirit and life, Ve gave them movement and intelligence and Vili gave them shape and feelings. The man, from the ash, was named Ask and the woman, from the elm, was named Embla. From them, the species of man grew. The gods built a fence around the humans to protect them from the giants. The place inside the fence was named Midgard.

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Ragnarök

Ragnarök means “the fate of the gods” in old Norse. The Norns have seen what their fate is to be. The end of times will be an everlasting winter where wars will wage, father against son, brother verses brother. The sun and the moon will be consumed by wolves and Yggdrasil will quiver, causing mountains to fall throughout the nine realms.

Heimdall will blow on his horn signaling the beginning of the end.

The chain that bound Fenris the wolf will snap, setting him loose to devour everything in his path. Jormungand will rise from the depths of the ocean, spilling water and venom over the world. Surtr will march from Muspelheim across the Bifrost with his flaming sword.

The giants along with Hel and her dishonorable dead will sail in the ship, Naglfar, made by the fingernails of the dead to the battle and fight the gods.

Odin, and by his side the einherjar, will fight Fenris, but lose. Thor will die by the venom of Jormungand, but will take the snake with him in death. Frey will face Surtr, both will fall.

The remains of the worlds will sink into the sea and nothing will be left but a void.

Some tales tell of a rebirth. A few gods and humans survive to rebuild the worlds.



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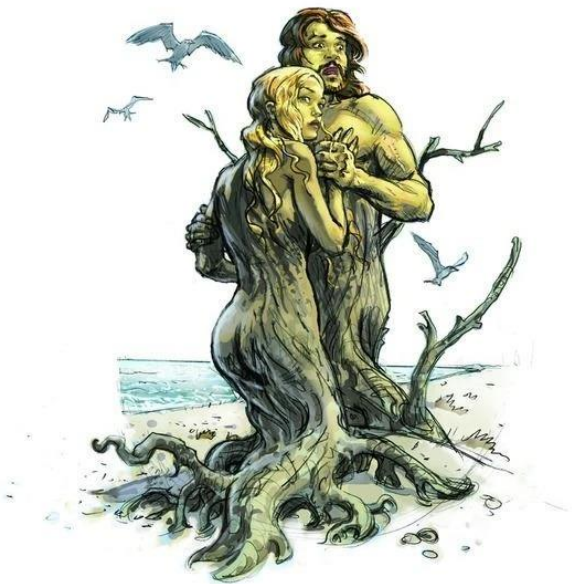
The Beginning and the End

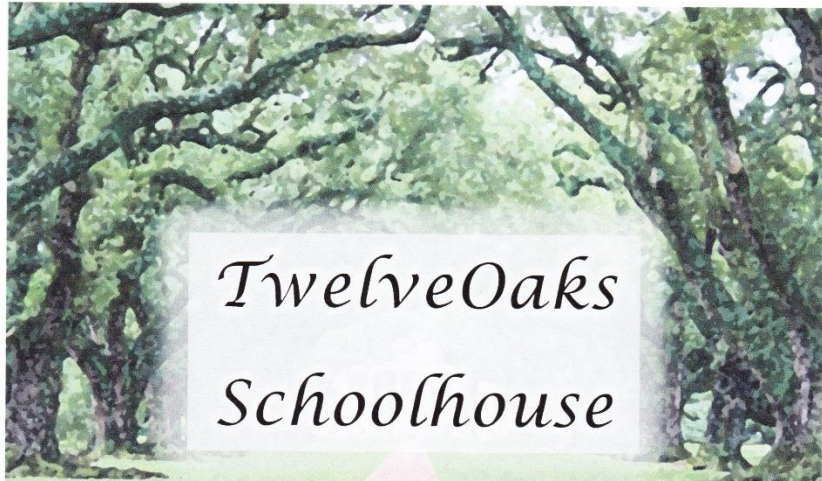
Discussion/ Essay Questions

1. What is Gunungagap?
2. How was the first giant made?
3. How did Odin and his brothers create the world?
4. What signals the beginning of Ragnarök?
5. What happens to Thor during Ragnarök?

Activities

- Write an essay, comparing the creation story of Norse Mythology to other creation stories.
- Watch Thor Ragnarök. Compare the differences from the original tale.
- Carve human figures out wood
- Take this fun quiz to see which Norse god you're most like (and how you'd fair at Ragnarök).
https://www.buzzfeed.com/andyneuschwander/which-mythological-norse-god-are-you?utm_term=.xjpXO9ApeW





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