Teacher's notes and answer key

Maui and Prometheus – Two Fire Thieves

Subjects: English · History · Ethics | recommended from age 11 (B1) | Video: 9:36 min

Answers B

1. Young Maui had put out the village cooking fires himself, just for mischief.

2. He deliberately put out every flame he was given and went back for the next nail – until Mahuika had given away almost all her fingernails and toenails.

3. As a punishment: Prometheus had tricked him at the sacrificial meal – Zeus chose the bones wrapped in fat, and the meat went to humans.

4. He lit a giant fennel stalk and hid the embers in its pithy core.

5. He was chained to a rock in the Caucasus and an eagle ate his liver every day, which grew back each night; later Heracles freed him.

Answer C

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

Notes on D and E

E: Maui – Mahuika, fire goddess and his ancestor / the nail trick / almost the whole world through a firestorm, Maui escapes as a bird / fire hidden in wood (fire by friction, kaikōmako). Prometheus – Zeus / fennel stalk / Prometheus alone, forever / fire freely available, the start of civilisation.

Content note and age

Recommended from age 11. Prometheus's punishment (an eagle eats his liver) is described.

Sources of the retelling: Māori tradition; Hesiod (Theogony, Works and Days).

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.

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