# 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?