Maui and Prometheus – Two Fire Thieves

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



Watch the video
youtu.be/3VnkCrldb4k

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. Do you know Maui from the film “Moana”? What do you know about him?

B · While watching

1. Why did the people in the Māori story no longer have fire?

2. What trick did Maui use to keep getting new fire from Mahuika?

3. Why had Zeus taken fire away from humans?

4. How did Prometheus smuggle fire to the humans?

5. How was Prometheus punished – and who set him free?

Useful words

demigod	Halbgott	fennel stalk	Fenchelstängel
fingernail	Fingernagel	chained	angekettet
to trick	austricksen	eagle	Adler
firestorm	Feuersturm	punishment	Strafe

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Maui keeps putting the fire out and asks for more nails.
	A cloudburst puts out the flames; fire stays hidden in wood.
	Maui puts out the cooking fires just for fun.
	Mahuika throws down her last nail, and a firestorm breaks out.
	Prometheus tricks Zeus at the sacrificial feast.
	Prometheus is chained to a rock in the Caucasus.
	Mahuika gives Maui one of her fiery fingernails.
	Prometheus hides embers in a fennel stalk.

D · Think and discuss

1. With Prometheus one person suffers for everyone, with Maui almost the whole world. Which version seems fairer to you? Explain.

2. Today “Promethean” describes dangerous but powerful progress. Give an example from our time.

E · Maui and Prometheus compared

Complete the table with information from the video.

	Maui (Polynesia)	Prometheus (Greece)
Who is the fire taken from?		
With what trick?		
Who is punished – and how?		
What do humans keep?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a conversation in which Maui and Prometheus discuss whether stealing fire was worth it (10–12 lines).