Susanoo and Thor – Two Storm Gods Against Giant Serpents

Subjects: English · History · Religious Studies | recommended from age 11 (B1) | Video: 9:33 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/HtuLM_h6zSA

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. What do you already know about Thor – for example from films? Write down two things.

B · While watching

1. Why was Susanoo banished from heaven?

2. How did Susanoo defeat the eight-headed serpent Yamata-no-Orochi?

3. What did Susanoo find in the serpent's tail – and what did it become?

4. How did the Midgard Serpent end up in the ocean around the world?

5. How does Thor's last fight at Ragnarök end?

Useful words

storm god	Sturmgott	drunk	betrunken
serpent	Schlange	poison	Gift
to banish	verbannen	fate	Schicksal
barrel	Fass	sword	Schwert

C · Put the story in order

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

	Thor hooks the serpent, but the giant Hymir cuts the line.
	At Ragnarök Thor kills the Midgard Serpent.
	Susanoo is born from the nose of the creator god Izanagi.
	The drunk serpent falls asleep and Susanoo defeats it.
	He wrecks Amaterasu's rice fields and is banished from heaven.
	Thor staggers nine steps and dies from its poison.
	Odin throws the young Midgard Serpent into the sea.
	Susanoo turns Kushinada-hime into a comb.

D · Think and discuss

1. Susanoo wins by cunning, Thor by strength – and dies. What does that say about the two world views?

2. Thor was the favourite god of ordinary people. Why, even though his death was certain?

E · Susanoo and Thor compared

Complete the table with information from the video.

	Susanoo (Japan)	Thor (Scandinavia)
Which serpent does he fight?		
How does he fight?		
How does the fight end for him?		
What is left today?		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write a newspaper report from Izumo: “Monster defeated!” (8–10 sentences).