



ATLANTIS

Level: Upper intermediate (equivalent to CEF level B2)

Age: Teenagers / Adults

Time: 60 minutes

Summary: This infographic lesson looks at interesting facts and figures about the legend of Atlantis.

Materials: One copy of the worksheet per student; access to a projector or IWB to project the infographic from onestopenglish.

HOW TO USE THE LESSON

1 As a warm up activity, write *Atlantis* on the board and ask the class what they know about this legend. Ask your students to look at exercise 1 and complete the phrases individually. When they have finished get them to compare their answers in pairs or small groups. At this stage, give them the suggested answers (there may be other acceptable answers).

2 Now ask students to work in pairs or small groups to write sentences about the legend of Atlantis using the phrases from exercise 1. Get feedback from the whole class to round up. Now ask the class to read the infographic to check their answers and find more information on the story. You could give students the infographic as a printed worksheet or display it on the board from onestopenglish.

3 Now ask them to look at exercise 3. Students work in pairs or small groups to find the vocabulary in the infographic. Write the answers on the board during feedback, and work on the pronunciation of difficult sounds.

4 Ask students to look at exercise 4. Look at the example adverb combination together as a whole class. Elicit the meaning of *consequently* (it happened as a result). Ask them how adverbs are used (they modify a verb, an adjective or another adverb). As a rule of thumb, in the case of adverb–verb combinations it is generally acceptable to place the adverb either before or after the verb. Students complete the other adverb combinations in pairs. Check answers and clarify the meaning of the adverbs.

5 Ask students to look at exercise 5. They discuss the sentences in pairs or small groups and place an adverb in each sentence in the correct position. Check the answers and give feedback.

6 Ask the class if they believe that Atlantis really existed. Get a few answers from the group. Tell them that they are going to study the evidence presented in the infographic to make a group decision. Each student reads the infographic again to find evidence *for* and *against* the existence of Atlantis and lists the evidence in the correct column.

7 Place students in small groups. Ask them to discuss the evidence together and make a group conclusion on whether they believe Atlantis really existed. Students conduct their discussion and come to a conclusion. When they have finished, conduct a whole class discussion. Each group presents its conclusion supporting it with evidence. You may want to make a whole class decision by asking them to vote on the existence of Atlantis.

Key:

1 Suggested answers:
 1 ancient civilisation
 2 beneath the sea
 3 Greek philosopher
 4 ideal society
 5 catastrophic destruction

2 students' own answers

3 1 earthquake
 2 flood
 3 strait
 4 land mass
 5 reef
 6 archipelago
 7 sedimentary
 8 tsunami

4 1 really did exist
 2 supposedly true
 3 directly descended
 4 gradually became



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- 5 currently lies
- 6 scientifically logical
- 7 morally corrupt

- 5** 1 It is generally believed that Atlantis did not exist.
- 2 The fact that Atlanteans were part god and part human is not actually true.
 - 3 The exact position of the island has not been geographically proven.
 - 4 The fact that Atlantis is allegedly based on a historical event is a topic of debate.

- 6 For:** a French scientist suggested that the island of Atlantis could have been close to the Strait of Gibraltar; looking at coral reef data, 19,000 years ago the sea level of the tip of Gibraltar would have been 130 metres lower than it is today; there is an island at the spot where Plato reported it to be, called Spartel; Spartel has a sedimentary layer that suggests it suffered from a tsunami; the destruction of Atlantis is scientifically logical as there were regular tsunamis during the period it was said to have vanished

Against: Plato created the story to convey his theories / get his philosophy across; the story of Atlantis is not based on historical fact (Atlanteans were part god); the story comes from mythology; it is a story designed to warn people of the dangers of immortality; the island called Spartel was small – only 14km long and 5km wide

- 7** students' own answers

RELATED WEBSITES

The following websites might be useful for either you or your students.

bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/atlantia_01.shtml

science.nationalgeographic.com/science/archaeology/atlantia/

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/sci/tech/4153008.stm

channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/videos/where-was-atlantia/



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1 You are going to read about the story of Atlantis. What do you already know about it? Put one word in each space below to make phrases about the legend.

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. _____ civilisation | 4. _____ society |
| 2. _____ the sea | 5. _____ destruction |
| 3. _____ philosopher | |

2 Work with a partner to make sentences about the legend of Atlantis using the phrases from exercise 1. Then read the infographic to check your ideas.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

3 Find words in the infographic that mean:

- a sudden shaking movement of the ground _____
- when water covers an area of land _____
- a narrow area of water that joins two large areas of water _____
- a continent or large area of land surrounded by sea (two words) _____
- a long line of rock or coral in the sea, with its top just below or just above the surface

- a large group of small islands _____
- a type of rock formed by substances left behind by water _____
- a large wave or series of waves caused when an earthquake moves a large quantity of water in the sea _____

4 Look at the following sentence from the infographic: *Its legend has **consequently** grown, fuelled by the countless books, films ...* Can you spot the adverb combination? Read the infographic again and find the following adverb combinations.

- _____ did exist
- _____ true
- _____ descended
- _____ became
- _____ lies
- _____ logical
- _____ corrupt



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5 Complete the following sentences by putting the adverbs from the box in the correct positions.

allegedly	actually	geographically	generally
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1. It is believed that Atlantis did not exist.

2. The fact that Atlanteans were part god and part human is not true.

3. The exact position of the island has not been proven.

4. The fact that Atlantis is based on a historical event is a topic of debate.

6 Read the infographic again and make a list of evidence *for* and *against* the existence of Atlantis.

For the existence of Atlantis	Against the existence of Atlantis

7 Did Atlantis really exist? Discuss the evidence with a partner and make a decision. Give reasons for your conclusion.



ATLANTIS

Atlantis

Does the ancient civilisation of Atlantis really lie undiscovered beneath the sea?

The Legend

The story of Atlantis was written about 2,500 years ago by the Greek philosopher Plato. Its legend has consequently grown, fuelled by the countless books, films, articles, websites and now a TV series. What gives it considerable contemporary interest is the continuous intellectual debate on its existence today. Archaeologists, historians and geologists still contest the various literary, historical and geographical elements of Plato's story to prove whether the ancient civilisation really did exist.

What do we know?

The story consists of a supposedly true account of an ideal society that existed 9,000 years before the classical Greek times in which Plato was writing. Atlantis was a huge island bigger than Asia and Libya put together. The Atlanteans were directly descended from Poseidon, the god of the sea and earthquakes. Its divine lineage of rulers, the descendants of the great god, gradually became corrupt by mixing with mortal humans. They became involved in wars, and this led to its catastrophic destruction by earthquakes and floods in a single day as a means of punishment from the displeased gods.

It existed!

The Pillars of Hercules is now known as the Strait of Gibraltar

According to Plato, Atlantis was a land mass in front of the Pillars of Hercules in the Atlantic Ocean. In 2001 a French scientist suggested a possible location. He stated it could have been positioned on an island close to the Strait of Gibraltar, and would have vanished beneath the sea about 11,000 years ago - just as Plato stated. The evidence is based on a study of sea levels that existed when the last Ice Age was ending. His assessment of coral reef data reveals that the sea level at the tip of Gibraltar 19,000 years ago would have been 130 metres below what it is today. This would have revealed an archipelago that currently lies under water off the coast of Spain, with an island at the spot where Plato reported Atlantis to be. However, the island named Spartel was only 14 km long and 5 km wide at the time. Nevertheless, further scientific research also discovered a sedimentary layer on Spartel that could have been left behind after a tsunami, which could also explain why Atlantis perished in just one day - if Spartel really was Atlantis.

It did not exist!

Many academics believe that Plato simply created the story of Atlantis to convey his theories about humanity. Throughout all his works divine nature versus human nature, ideal societies, and the gradual corruption of human society are constant themes. Atlantis was merely another vehicle to get his philosophy across. Although the destruction of Atlantis is scientifically logical considering the frequent volcanic activity and the regular occurrence of tsunamis during this period, the story is not based on historical fact. The people of Atlantis were part god and part human - their human nature caused them to become greedy and morally corrupt. They were punished by the gods and destroyed in one day. This is not historical fact - it comes straight from Greek mythology. It is simply a powerful literary device to warn people of the dangers of immorality.

Created by:

What do you think? Piktochart