

## SAMPLE OF ACTIVITY

### LOCAL MYTHS OR UNIVERSAL LEGENDS EXPOSED BY HOSTING STUDENTS *exemple de présentations réalisées à domicile par des lycéen.ne.s lors de mobilités entrantes*

#### BLUE WAVES C2.5

a boat tour and a presentation of Arion legend related by Herodote



*De retour à Corinthe après un voyage en Sicile, Arion dépouillé de sa fortune est jeté à la mer par les marins du navire. Grâce à l'intervention d'Apollon, un dauphin le recueille et le porte sur son dos jusqu'au rivage.*

#### **LEGEND OF ARION :**

It is a legend told by a greek historian called Herodotus, a story of friendship between a man called Arion and a dolphin.

Arion was born on the island of Lesbos in the 7th century BC. He is a musician, inventor of the dithyramb which is a poem in honor of the god Dionysus. Arion lives at the court of the tyrant king of Corinth named Periander. After visiting Sicily and amassing wealth, he embarks on a ship to return to Corinth in Greece. But the sailors ( very mean or slaves maybe) plan to throw him overboard in order to take his treasure. Then, he asks the sailors for one last favor :he asks them to

sing a song, his last song...so he begins to sing with his lyre and of course it sounds marvelous, beautiful.

Thanks to his song, a dolphin is charmed and he comes to get him on his back . He saves Arion. He brings him back to the port, at home, in Greece and to thank him and all the gods, he will offer a bronze statue representing a man riding a dolphin in the south of the Peloponnese, called cape Tenare. Another famous historian and geographer called Pausanias has described this statue when he was travelling in the south of Greece.

This legend illustrates the relationship , the solidarity between a human being and an animal. The dolphins are represented very often on the vases and in the archaeological remains, which is the proof that this animal was considered apart from other marine animals, and in all the greek mythology.



## THE DOLPHINS IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY :

The word « dolphin » comes from the greek *delphis, inos* .

The first legend is with **Dionysus**, the god of wine and celebration. One day, he embarked on a ship to the island of Naxos in Greece. He had taken on the appearance of a human and not a god so as not to attract the attention of the sailors. But the sailors wanted to sell him as a slave, to make money. The god is furious and get angry with them. He transformed the oars of the boat into snakes and made the sound of flutes resound everywhere to deafen the sailors. The sailors jumped from the boat and threw themselves into the water because they were completely panicked. The god of the sea, Poseidon, decided to transform them into dolphins and gave them the mission to always help men, sailors in the sea and tempests for example.

The dolphin is also venerated in **Delphi** ( remember, the dolphin is called *delphis* in greek ) in the continental Greece because it is associated with **Apollo** , the god of order, measure and beauty. The god travelled all over Greece under the appearance of a dolphin to find a place of worship where he would build his temple. Finally, he found Delphi. That is why we can also see a

dolphin next to the god on the frescoes or statues, in Delphi or in others temples dedicated to Apollo.

The dolphin is finally associated with **Poseidon**, the god of sea. He wanted to marry Amphitrite ,a beautiful nereide that means a sort of goddess of the seas. But she refused the marriage and hid herself in the depths of the sea. So Poseidon called a man called « Dolphin » as an embassy in order to convince Amphitrite to marry him. She finally accepted. To reward « Dolphin », he placed him in the constellation of the dolphin in the sky.



*L'activité ambitieuse de donner lieu à un échange interculturel et pousse les élèves à faire preuve de plus d'assurance et de maîtrise orale (par contre-coup leur Anglais est plus fluide). C'est aussi un moyen, tout en partageant des mythes maritimes et divers légendes (L'Atlantide, les sirènes, les calamars géants, etc.) de sensibiliser au besoin de protéger le Vivant et notamment la faune aquatique (en complément, des biologistes expliquent quels cétacés sont présents et observables dans le Golfe de Gascogne).*

The activity aims to create intercultural exchange and encourages students to show greater confidence and oral mastery (as a result, English becomes easier).

Also, while sharing sea myths and various legends (Atlantis, mermaids, giant squid...) to raise awareness of the need to protect living things and especially aquatic fauna (in addition, biologists explain which cetaceans exist and can be seen in the Cantabrian Sea.

#### TEXTES DES MINI-CONFÉRENCES FAITES PENDANT LA CROISIÈRE

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