

## Turkey embarks on cultural mission to preserve its fairy tales

**Level:** Intermediate – Teacher's notes

**Article summary:** A new project aims to collect all of Turkey's fairy tales for everybody to read.

**Time:** Up to 90 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking, Writing

**Language focus:** Vocabulary

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

### 1. Warmer

Working with a partner, students write the titles of as many fairy tales as they can think of in five minutes. Allow them to write the titles in English or in their own language. Then give them time to look up the English titles of any they do not know before they share what they have written with the other students. How many different fairy tales can your students come up with as a group? If they need help, you could give them the following fairy tales to start them off:

- *Cinderella*
- *Aladdin*
- *Hansel and Gretel*

### 2. Key words

a. Students read the words in the box and match them to the definitions below. Tell them to scan the article and underline the words as they find them. This will help them check their answers as well as see how the words are used in context.

**Key:**

1. *curse*
2. *sultan*
3. *motif*
4. *index*
5. *preserve*
6. *submit*
7. *approved*
8. *enchanted*
9. *villain*

10. *wonder*
11. *reason*
12. *intimidated*
13. *deceit*
14. *resist*

b. Before reading the article carefully, students use some of the key words to fill the gaps in the sentences to ensure that they understand and know how the words are used in other contexts.

**Key:**

1. *wonder*
2. *deceit*
3. *villain*
4. *enchanted*
5. *resist*
6. *submit*
7. *preserve*

### 3. Comprehension check

Students find information in the text to answer the questions. If you would like to introduce a writing element here, ask them to write down their answers.

**Key:**

1. *They come from the area of the Caucasus mountain range between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, and the Anatolian plateau.*
2. *They are being collected by a large academic project called Masal. Members of the public and academics from university literature departments around Turkey can submit a fairy tale to Masal online. The project is funded by the Atatürk Cultural Centre in Turkey.*
3. *The tales are indexed according to which of the regions they come from and the type of story: animal tales, magical or extraordinary tales, realistic tales and funny tales.*
4. *The database will be available to the public.*
5. *magic carpets, talking birds and animals, enchanted mirrors and fruit, dragons, giants, difficult tasks that have to be completed by the hero, a magical bird that helps out the hero, marriage proposals in beautiful gardens, and villains in the form of Jews, Black or Moorish servants and old witches*

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### 4. Using key language

- a. Students first match the words on the left and right to make phrases from the article. Then they should find and underline them in the article and read them again in context paying particular attention to the words that come before and after each phrase.

**Key:**

1. *d*
2. *e*
3. *h*
4. *c*
5. *g*
6. *b*
7. *a*
8. *f*

- b. Students then match the phrases to their meanings.

**Key:**

- a. *draw on*
- b. *overcome obstacles*
- c. *members of the public*
- d. *run errands*
- e. *marriage proposals*
- f. *universal human values*
- g. *future generations*
- h. *at the mercy of*

- c. Finally they use the phrases to complete the information from the article.

**Key:**

1. *overcome obstacles*
2. *run errands*
3. *at the mercy of*
4. *marriage proposals*
5. *draw on*
6. *universal human values*
7. *Members of the public*
8. *future generations*

### Extension or homework task

Students write personalized sentences, one for each phrase or expression that they would like to learn to integrate into their active vocabulary. Ask them to make the sentences relevant to their own lives if possible as this will make it easier for them to remember the (new) language and use it correctly in the future.

### 5. Discussion

Students discuss the questions that are directly related to the topic of the article.

### 6. In your own words

Students follow the instructions on the worksheet. This task can be done individually or with a partner. First they choose a fairy tale that has a special meaning to them and make notes in the box. Then they retell the story to other students, starting in the way of all good fairy tales: *Once upon a time.*