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Stories

The hunter-gather or forager societies were based on small groups of nomadic families. These groups might have as little as 10 or 20 people to as much as 100 or 500 people. They lived on plains or in forests. Once people transition from small hunter-gathering they became more dependent on weather as they were less dependent on wild food and game. However, depending on agricultural crops made them less secure as plants on the farms were vulnerable to insects and wild animals.

Let's have a look at a Greek fable about a goatherd and wild goats.

The Goatherd and the Wild Goats

Aesop's Fables

Greek

A Goatherd was tending his goats out at pasture when he saw a number of Wild Goats approach and mingle with his flock. At the end of the day he drove them home and put them all into the pen together.

Next day the weather was so bad that he could not take them out as usual: so he kept them at home in the pen, and fed them there. He only gave his own goats enough food to keep them from starving, but he gave the Wild Goats as much as they could eat and more; for he was very anxious for them to stay, and he thought that if he fed them well they wouldn't want to leave him.

When the weather improved, he took them all out to pasture again; but no sooner had they got near the hills than the Wild Goats broke away from the flock and

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scampered off. The Goatherd was very much disgusted at this, and roundly abused them for their ingratitude.

“Rascals!” he cried, “to run away like that after the way I’ve treated you!”

Hearing this, one of them turned round and said, “Oh, yes, you treated us all right—too well, in fact; it was just that that put us on our guard. If you treat newcomers like ourselves so much better than your own flock, it’s more than likely that, if another lot of strange goats joined yours, we should then be neglected in favour of the last comers.”

Questions

1. Why is the goatherd vulnerable to the weather?
2. Why would the goatherd hope the wild goat stayed?
3. Do you think wild goats are easy to domesticate?
Explain in your own words?
4. What is the difference between domestic animals and non-domestic animals?
5. What did you learn from this story?

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Listening is a skill

Listening is one of the English Language skills all students must have. Hearing is not listening. You can hear, like a sound for instance, but unless you can determine who or what produced that sound, you will not be able to fully understand the purpose of that sound. Listening helps you develop your communication and comprehension skills.

Listening Strategies

Here we are seeking to improve your listening skills.

Pre-listening activity:

1. Complete your worksheet.
2. All students must listen to the short story. You may not interrupt the reader. If you have any questions, you should write it down in your notebook and ask them at the end of the story.
3. Take notes while you listen. You will be asked some questions after the reading as well.

Post-listening activity:

4. Students discuss the questions about the story. They share their ideas and everyone listen. Listen carefully to each other's answers as students would be called to task to repeat a response.

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The Farmer and Fortune

Aesop's Fables

Greek

A Farmer was ploughing one day on his farm when he turned up a pot of golden coins with his plough. He was overjoyed at his discovery, and from that time forth made an offering daily at the shrine of the Goddess of the Earth. Fortune was displeased at this, and came to him and said, "My man, why do you give Earth the credit for the gift which I bestowed upon you? You never thought of thanking me for your good luck; but should you be unlucky enough to lose what you have gained I know very well that I, Fortune, should then come in for all the blame."

Show gratitude where gratitude is due.

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Listening Worksheet

Pre-Listening Questions:	
What I know about...?	Define:
Farming -	Fable -
Gold -	Fortune -
Offering -	Shrine -

Post-Listening Question:	
What is the main idea of this story?	
Who are the main characters in this story?	
What did the farmer find?	What sort of beliefs do you think the farmer has?
How did he find it?	Who did the farmer credit his luck to?
What did the farmer routinely do after he found it?	Was he right to do this?
Why was Fortune displeased with the farmer?	Who do you think the farmer would blame if he was to suddenly get unlucky?