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For more materials and information on the project, please visit:

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# Mythological

## expressions

Original language		Αχίλλειος πτέρνα (Greece)
Expression in English		Achilles' heel
Background meaning in English		In Homer's Iliad, Achilles' mother, Thetis, dipped Achilles in the water of river Styx to make him immortal. But she was holding him from the heel so that part was left out of the water and was the only vulnerable point on his body. So when Paris hurt Achilles on the heel, Achilles died.
Meaning nowadays		Vulnerable or weak point, soft spot. (Greece)
Greece		Αχίλλειος πτέρνα
Spain		El Talón de Aquiles
Italy		Il tallone d'Achille
Finland		Akilleen kantapää
Iceland		Akkilesarhæll
Poland		Pięta Achillesa
Latvia		Ahileja papēdis



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Το μήλο της Έριδας (Greece)	
Expression in English	The apple of Eris / The (golden) apple of discord	
Background meaning in English	Eris was the goddess of jealousy and discord. The gods didn't invite her to Peleus and Thetis' wedding and she wanted to take revenge on them. So she cast an apple among Athena, Hera and Aphrodite to be given to the most beautiful of them. As expected, a fight broke out so they asked Paris to choose. All goddesses tried to cajole Paris. Athena promised him wisdom, Hera promised to make him king and Aphrodite to give him beautiful Helen (Helen of Troy) as his wife. Paris gave the apple to Aphrodite and then the Trojan War broke out.	
Meaning nowadays	Something that two or more people want to get and there is a dispute over it. (Greece)	
Greece		Το μήλο της Έριδας
Spain		La manzana de la discordia
Italy		Il pomo della discordia
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		Jabłko niezgody
Latvia		Strīda ābols.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language		Δούρειος Ίππος (Greece)
Expression in English		Trojan Horse
Background meaning in English		Odysseus sent the Trojans a wooden horse as a token of good will. But the horse was hollow and some Achaeans soldiers were hidden in it. So when the horse 'entered' Troy, the Achaeans entered too, opened the city gates for more soldiers to enter and looted the place.
Meaning nowadays		A trick used to deceive someone. (Greece)
Greece		Δούρειος Ίππος
Spain		El Caballo de Troya
Italy		Il cavallo di Troia
Finland		Troijan hevonen
Iceland		Trójuhestur
Poland		Koń Trojański
Latvia		Trojas zirgs.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Το κουτί της Πανδώρας (Greece)	
Expression in English	Pandora's box	
Background meaning in English	<p>Hermes took beautiful and gifted Pandora to Prometheus so that they would get married, as Zeus had ordered. But Prometheus felt it was a trap by the gods and rejected her. However, his brother, Epimetheus, was attracted to her and accepted her. The box that Pandora carried with her contained wedding gifts from the gods of Olympus. She had been told never to open it. But she too curious to keep it closed. So when she opened it, all bad things came out of it, such as misery, illness and bad luck.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	<p>When someone opens Pandora's box, many bad things happen at the same time. (Greece)</p>	
Greece		Το κουτί της Πανδώρας
Spain		Abrir la caja de Pandora
Italy		Il vaso di Pandora
Finland		Pandoran lipas
Iceland		Askja Pandoru
Poland		Puszka Pandory
Latvia		Pandoras lāde.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Ο ασκός του Αιόλου (Greece)	
Expression in English	Aeolus' bag	
Background meaning in English	Aeolus, the god of winds, gave Odysseus food supplies and a bag so that he could have a safe voyage back home. In the bag were all the winds. Odysseus was not allowed to tell his companions anything about the bag, though. But when the boat was already near home and a favourable wind was blowing, Odysseus' companions opened the bag thinking that he was hiding something precious from them. And then, all the adverse winds burst out and pushed the boat to the opposite direction.	
Meaning nowadays	When someone opens Aeolus' bag, people experience actions and situations that have unexpected and uncontrollable consequences. (Greece)	
Greece		Ο ασκός του Αιόλου
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		





# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Λερναία Ὕδρα (Greece)	
Expression in English	Lernaean Hydra	
Background meaning in English	Lernaean Hydra was a mythical beast with nine heads, which was killed by Hercules. When Hercules cut a head, another two emerged. He managed to stop that with fire. The last head was immortal so he cut it and buried it in the ground.	
Meaning nowadays	A task which cannot be completed because new issues arise all the time delaying its completion. (Greece)	
Greece		Λερναία Ὕδρα
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		





# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Αλκυονίδες ημέρες (Greece)	
Expression in English	The Halcyon days	
Background meaning in English	<p>Alcyone was the daughter of Aeolus, a very beautiful woman who was so happily married to Ceyx that they believed they were equal to gods. Zeus got very angry with their arrogance and decided to punish them. He let Ceyx drown in a shipwreck. Alcyone was mourning so much for her husband's death, that Zeus felt sorry for her and transformed her into a beautiful bird, which, however, was doomed to lay its eggs in the winter. So the waves destroyed the bird's nest and the eggs on the rocks. Zeus felt sorry for the bird and ordered the winds to stop blowing and the sun to shine for fifteen days in the winter so that Alcyone's eggs could hatch.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	Usually the days between 16 and 31 of January when the weather is good. (Greece)	
Greece		Αλκυονίδες ημέρες
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

# expressions

Original language	Το κέρας της Αμάλθειας (Greece)	
Expression in English	Amalthea's horn	
Background meaning in English	When Zeus' mother hid him in a cave to protect him from his father, Cronus, who ate his kids, Amalthea was his nurse. Sometimes she is described as a goat. Zeus was nourished with milk and honey from her horn.	
Meaning nowadays	Abundance (Greece)	
Greece		Το κέρας της Αμάλθειας
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Runsaudensarvi
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Pārpilnības rags. (Horn of abundance)



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language		Κέρβερος (Greece)
Expression in English		Cerberus
Background meaning in English		Cerberus was a dog with three heads who was the guard at Hades' doors.
Meaning nowadays		Someone who is watchful and strict in whatever they do. (Greece)
Greece		Κέρβερος
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		Cerber
Latvia		Cerbers.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Ο μίτος της Αριάδνης (Greece)	
Expression in English	Ariadne's thread	
Background meaning in English	When Theseus arrived to Crete to kill the Minotaur in the maze, Ariadne, the daughter of king Minos, liked him and gave him a ball of thread so that he could find the way out of the maze.	
Meaning nowadays	A solution to a problem or a person that can help someone to solve it. (Greece) When someone tells you a very detailed story.(Spain)	
Greece		Ο μίτος της Αριάδνης
Spain		Fil per randa. Different form and meaning in Spanish, but also related to Ariadne. When someone tells you a very detailed story.
Italy		Il filo di Arianna
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		Nić Adrianny
Latvia		Ariadnes pavediens.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Rīta stundai zelts mutē. (Latvia)	
Expression in English	The morning hour has gold in its mouth.	
Background meaning in English	Saying from the Latvian folklore and fairy tales.	
Meaning nowadays	The morning is the most productive. (Latvia)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		I mattino ha l'oro in bocca
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Rīta stundai zelts mutē.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Ne viss ir zelts, kas spīd. (Latvia)	
Expression in English	Not everything that shines is gold.	
Background meaning in English	Saying from the Latvian folklore and fairy tales.	
Meaning nowadays	Don't judge by the outer appearance. (Latvia)	
Greece		Ό,τι λάμπει δεν είναι χρυσός
Spain		No es oro todo lo que reluce.
Italy		Non è tutto oro ciò che luccica
Finland		Kaikki mikä kiiltää ei ole kultaa
Iceland		Ekki er allt gull sem glóir
Poland		Nie wszystko złoto co się świeci.
Latvia		Ne viss ir zelts, kas spīd.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Kangarisms. (Latvia)	
Expression in English	Cangarism	
Background meaning in English	Kangars (a character from the national epic " Lāčplēsis") was the chief of the tribe but in reality a traitor plotting with invaders- the enemies of the country.	
Meaning nowadays	Betrayal of the native country or one's family.(Latvia)	
Greece		Εφιάλτης / Ephialtes was a Greek traitor who helped the Persians win the battle in Thermopylae in 480BC.
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Kangarisms.





# Mythological

# expressions

Original language	Stiprs kā Lāčplēsis. (Latvia)	
Expression in English	Strong as Lacplēsis	
Background meaning in English	Lāčplēsis (Bear-slayer), the main character of the Latvian national epic "Lāčplēsis", was chosen by Gods to become a hero and defend the native country.	
Meaning nowadays	A man strong mentally and physically.(Latvia)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Stiprs kā Lāčplēsis.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Trešais Tēvadēls. (Latvia)	
Expression in English	The third son in the family	
Background meaning in English	"The lastborn son" was considered a fool by his elder brothers due to his idealism and selflessness. A common hero in Latvian fairy tales.	
Meaning nowadays	A person who is not very practical, he sees the surrounding world through his heart and emotions.(Latvia) The youngest kid of a family and, perhaps, the most spoilt. (Greece)	
Greece		Βενιαμίν / Veniamin, a biblical person
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Trešais Tēvadēls.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Creerse el ombligo del mundo. (Spain)	
Expression in English	Believe oneself to be the navel of the world.	
Background meaning in English	Mythology: The phrase has a mythological origin, because it was called "navel of the world" to the stone that was venerated in the sanctuary of Apollo in Delphi, the greatest center of spirituality for the Greeks, considered by then the most important place in the known world.	
Meaning nowadays	If you believe that you are better than the others. (Spain)	
Greece		Ο ομφαλός της γης
Spain		Creerse el ombligo del mundo.
Italy		Credere di essere l'ombelico del mondo
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Vivir una auténtica Odisea (Spain)	
Expression in English	To live an authentic Odissey	
Background meaning in English	The years that Ulysses spend going back home after ten years of war and the adventures and misadventures that his family suffer.	
Meaning nowadays	When you made a long and tortuous trip. (Spain) When you had a long and tortuous trip (literal meaning) and when you went through some hard time (metaphorical meaning). (Greece)	
Greece		Ζήσαμε μια οδύσσεια
Spain		Vivir una auténtica Odisea
Italy		Vivere un'Odissea
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Ser un caos (Spain)	
Expression in English	To be a chaos	
Background meaning in English	The chaos was what existed before the Gods and the elementary forces what is known as confusion.	
Meaning nowadays	When you are a complete disaster. (Spain) When there is complete disorder (Greece)	
Greece		Επικρατεί χάος
Spain		Ser un caos
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Parecer un Adonis (Spain)	
Expression in English	To be an Adonis	
Background meaning in English	The young Adonis was extremely beautiful, to the point that the goddess Aphrodite fell in love with him madly. On one occasion when Adonis was hunting, he was killed by a wild boar.	
Meaning nowadays	You can say this to a man that is really handsome. (Spain)	
Greece		Άδωνις
Spain		Parecer un Adonis
Italy		Essere un Adone
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Canto de Sirenas (Spain)	
Expression in English	The singing of mermaids	
Background meaning in English	They appear in the Oddisey when Ulisses face her chants up at the sea. They cheated the sailors who were stunned by their chants. The mermaids ate the stunned sailors when they felt into the water.	
Meaning nowadays	When one person tricks another person. Quite ancient not many people use it nowadays. (SP) It is associated with temptation and is used - not very often - in phrases such as " Don't listen to the Sirens" or "He was lured by the Sirens".	
Greece		Οι Σειρήνες
Spain		Canto de Sirenas
Italy		Il canto delle sirene
Finland		Seireenien laulu
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		





# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	El hilo de Ariadna. De la A a la Z. (Spain)	
Expression in English	Ariadna's thread	
Background meaning in English	<p>Ariadna is the daughter of Minos and Pasífae, and therefore, Princess of Crete. King Minos underwent Athens after a son of his, Androgeu, was killed. He forced the Athenians to send Crete every nine years to a group of fourteen young people - seven boys and seven girls - who would be sacrificed to the Minotaur. Once, in one of these shipments of guys, Prince Teseus, the son of Aegean, king of Athens, went voluntarily. Theseus, once arrived at Crete, dazzled Ariadna, who fell in love. Advocated by Dédalo gave him a magic sword, with which he could kill the Minotaur and a piece of wool that could not be broken that would help him find the way out of the Labyrinth.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	<p>When someone tells you a very detailed story.(Spain)          A solution to a problem or a person that can help someone to solve it. (Greece)</p>	
Greece		Ο μίτος της Αριάδνης
Spain		El hilo de Ariadna. De la A a la Z.
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	El mantel de Penélope (Spain)	
Expression in English	Penelope's cloth	
Background meaning in English	Penelope was Ulisses wife, the cloth was the thing she was weaving and unweaving every night to trick the men who were asking marriage to her every night.	
Meaning nowadays	A never ending thing. (SP)	
Greece		Ο ιστός της Πηνελόπης
Spain		El mantel de Penélope
Italy		La tela di Penelope
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological





# expressions

Original language	Quan a creix l'ordi, ja és Sant Jordi	
Expression in English	When barley has grown, it's Saint George.	
Background meaning in English	Sant Georges' legend.	
Meaning nowadays	It means that Spring will bring the festivity of Sant Jordi. (CAT)	
Greece		
Spain		Quan a creix l'ordi, ja és Sant Jordi
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Óhreinu börnin hennar Evu (Iceland)	
Expression in English	The unwashed children of Eva	
Background meaning in English	<p>Once upon a time, it is said that God himself visited Adam and Eva. When he visited, Adam and Eva showed him everything they owned to God. Especially their clean and tidy children. But actually, there was one thing they didn't show to God. That was their dirty and unwashed children. But God knew that Adam and Eva were hiding these children from him. Therefore he said: „The things that are supposed to be hidden from me, should also be hidden from humans“. So these dirty and unwashed children were invisible to everyone and became elves who lived in stones and hills while the clean and tidy children became humans.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	<p>Today this expression is mostly used to criticize governments, healthcare system or even societies that don't help children in need. For example children that have been waiting for a long long time for help because of their illness or disfunction of some sort. (Iceland)</p>	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		Óhreinu börnin hennar Evu
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Að liggja á einhverju eins og ormur á gulli (Iceland)	
Expression in English	To lie like a worm on gold	
Background meaning in English	<p>There is a myth about farmer named Hreiðmar that had suddenly gained a golden treasure for something he did. His sons, named Fáfnir and Reginn, killed their father because they desired the gold for themselves. In addition, Fáfnir had a double plot and also betrayed his brother Reginn and took the gold for himself and hid it under a mountain. Fáfnir was so obsessed with his gold that he guarded it at all times by laying on it. Eventually he transformed into a big and long worm. But the word worm in Icelandic can also mean dragon. Reginn got his revenge by hiring a young warrior named Sigurður to try to kill his brother Fáfnir. Which Sigurður was able to do. After that he was known as the legend Sigurður Fáfnisbani or Sigurður the bane (killer) of Fáfnir.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	This expression is used when someone is being very cheap, or holding money very tight to themselves. (Iceland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		Að liggja á einhverju eins og ormur á gulli
Poland		

Latvia



# Mythological

# expressions

Original language	Að vera týndur og tröllum gefinn (Iceland)	
Expression in English	To be lost and given to the trolls	
Background meaning in English	In Iceland there are mythical creatures that live in the mountains, called trolls. Trolls sometimes come down from the mountains are known for stealing from people and/or even stealing people themselves. When they do steal people, they usually steal kids.	
Meaning nowadays	This expression is used for something or someone that has been lost for a long time and nobody has seen it or them. (Iceland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		Að vera týndur og tröllum gefinn
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Að bera ægishjálms yfir einhverjum (Iceland)	
Expression in English	To hold an ægishjalm over someone	
Background meaning in English	There is an old alphabet called Icelandic runes that was used by the vikings of old. But there are also old symbols that are considered magical in nature, they are called magic letters. These symbols can for example mean, healing, fertility, protection, guidance, fear and etc. One of these symbols is called ægishjálms and is the symbol for protection.	
Meaning nowadays	The saying, to hold an ægishjalm over someone, means that you are protecting them. (Iceland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		Að bera ægishjálms yfir einhverjum
Poland		
Latvia		





# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Að fara í jólaköttinn (Iceland)	
Expression in English	To be eaten by the Christmas cat	
Background meaning in English	In Iceland there is a myth about a particular Christmas cat which is owned by two trolls called Leppalúði and Grýla, parents of all thirteen Icelandic Santa clauses (Also known as Yule Lads). This Christmas cat is not like the ordinary fluffy and cute cat like you maybe would imagine. But an evil and ugly beast that eats humans alive. That happens when people dont get new clothes for Christmas.	
Meaning nowadays	The myth says, that everyone has to wear something new for Christmas or else be eaten by the cat. But it can be something simple like new socks for example. (ISL)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		
Iceland		Að fara í jólaköttinn
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language		Szyfowe prace (Poland)
Expression in English		Labors of Sisyphus
Background meaning in English		The expression „ Labors of Sisyphus” is connected with mythical king who fell into disfavor with other Gods. As a punishment he was being forced to roll an immense boulder up a hill only for it to roll down when it nears the top, and repeat this action for eternity.
Meaning nowadays		Tasks that are both laborious and futile (Poland)
Greece		Το μαρτύριο του Σίσυφου
Spain		
Italy		Fatica di Sisifo
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		Szyfowe prace
Latvia		Sīzifa mokas



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Strzała Amora (Poland)	
Expression in English	Eros' Arrow	
Background meaning in English	<p>There are different versions about origins of Eros. According to one Eros was one of the primordial Gods which presence was necessary for the other Gods to be born. According to the other one , Eros was Afrodyta and Ares's son. He was a very handsome young man with wings, a bow and an arrow who had the ability to bind people with love using his arrow.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	To be in love (Poland)	
Greece		Τα βέλη του έρωτα
Spain		
Italy		Il dardo di Cupido
Finland		
Iceland		Örvar Erosar
Poland		Strzała Amora
Latvia		Amora bulta.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	La speranza è l'ultima a morire (Italy)	
Expression in English	Hope is the last thing that dies	
Background meaning in English	There are different versions about its meaning. According to some, it refers to Pandora's box. When Pandora opened the box and all the world's evils came out, only hope lied at the bottom and was closed in the box again. So the world became such an evil place, that Pandora opened the box again to let hope out, the last thing left for mankind.	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		Η ελπίδα πεθαίνει πάντα τελευταία
Spain		
Italy		La speranza è l'ultima a morire (Italy)
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Cerība mirst pēdējā.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Essere piantata in Nasso (Italy)	
Expression in English	To be planted in Naxo	
Background meaning in English	To be left alone in a situation, unexpectedly. This saying derives from the love story between Theseus and Ariane. After Ariane helps Theseus out of the maze, along with the Athenians and Theseus, she runs away and gets to the island of Naxo, where she is abandoned by Theseus for unknown reasons.	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		Essere piantata in Nasso (Italy)
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Avere la spada di Damocle (sulla testa) (Italy)	
Expression in English	To have Damocles's sword on one's head	
Background meaning in English	<p>This saying refers to Damocle, a friend of a tyrant called Dionisus II. Damocle was envious of the power and the role his friend had, so one day Dionisus said that Damocle could be the king for a day, to convince him that he was wrong. While having dinner together, there was a sword suspended on Damocle's head, tied only to a horsehair. After this episode, Damocle understood how difficult and dangerous it is to be a ruler.</p>	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		Δαμόκλειος σπάθη
Spain		
Italy		Avere la spada di Damocle (sulla testa)
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Damokla zobens virs galvas.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Andare tra le braccia di Morfeo (Italy)	
Expression in English	To be hugged by Morpheu's arms	
Background meaning in English	To fall asleep, as Morpheus was the God of sleep.	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		Στην αγκαλιά του Μορφέα
Spain		
Italy		Andare tra le braccia di Morfeo
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Le dodici fatiche di Ercole (Italy)	
Expression in English	The twelve labors of Hercules	
Background meaning in English	To do something impossible or nearly impossible, just like Hercules' labours, ordered by King Eurystheus, to be performed in 12 years.	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		Οι άθλοι του Ηρακλή
Spain		
Italy		Le dodici fatiche di Ercole
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		





# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	L'avvenire giace sulle ginocchia di Giove (Italy)	
Expression in English	The future lies on Jupiter's lap	
Background meaning in English	Future is unpredictable, it is in God's hands (Jupiter's hands)	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		L'avvenire giace sulle ginocchia di Giove (Italy)
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Nākotne ir Dieva rokās.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language		Bacco, Tabacco e Venere, riducon l'uomo in cenere (Italy)
Expression in English		Bacchus, tobacco and Venus reduce man to ashes
Background meaning in English		The combination of too much wine (symbolised by Bacchus), tobacco and sex (=Venus) will lead man to death.
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		Πυρ, γυνή και θάλασσα (= Fire, woman and sea)
Spain		
Italy		Bacco, Tabacco e Venere, riducon l'uomo in cenere
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Quando Bacco trionfa, il pensier fugge (Italy)	
Expression in English	When Bacchus wins, thoughts fly away	
Background meaning in English	If you drink too much alcohol (=Bacchus), you won't be able to think/use your mind properly.	
Meaning nowadays		
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		Quando Bacco trionfa, il pensier fugge
Finland		
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Sampo (Finland)	
Expression in English	Magical artifact in Kalevala	
Background meaning in English	Sampo is a mythical thing from the Finnish epic “Kalevala”. Sampo can be a machine or an item, also a wedding gift or a war trophy, but the main idea is that it increases the wealth of its owner. In Finnish traditional poems there are many stories about the sampo but in the epic “Kalevala” it is a fabulous golden machine that makes gold, grain and salt.	
Meaning nowadays	Something producing great (financial) wealth. (FIN)	
Greece		Το κέρας της Αμάλθειας / Amalthea's horn (see expression in Greek)
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Sampo
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Laulaa suohon (Finland)	
Expression in English	Sing into a swamp	
Background meaning in English	In Finnish folklore it's common to use spells or singing to make things change. Young Joukahainen (a character from the national epic "Kalevala") challenged the old but wise man Väinämöinen into a singing battle. The battle ended with young Joukahainen flying into the swamp.	
Meaning nowadays	Win a battle (go and sing someone into the swamp). Also used as an exhortation (Go and sing him/her into the swamp!) (Finland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Laulaa suohon
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Noidannuoli (Finland)	
Expression in English	Witch's arrow	
Background meaning in English	<p>In the Finnish folklore Lappish people ("finnar", "lappir") lived in the wilderness and were possibly Sami people. Among the Lappish people there were witches whose weapons were witches' arrows. The arrows were invisible and you couldn't see it striking into a person or an animal. It is also said in the folklore that you could see the arrows flying as fiery streaks in a dark forest.</p>	
Meaning nowadays	Back ache, lumbago, is called witches' arrow. (Finland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Noidannuoli
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Koputtaa puuta (Finland)	
Expression in English	Knock on wood	
Background meaning in English	In old Finnish mythological stories people believed that gnomes lived in the trees and if a man went to cut a tree he was to knock on the tree three times to warn the gnome to move out. If he didn't do it, the gnome would get angry and revenge to the person felling the tree.	
Meaning nowadays	Prevents unpleasant things beforehand. (Finland)	
Greece		Χτύπα ξύλο
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Koputtaa puuta
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		Piesit pie koka.



# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Suden hetki (Finland)	
Expression in English	Wolf's moment	
Background meaning in English	A wolf's moment is the moment early in the morning when a person is believed to be the most vulnerable. Folklore says that at the wolf's moment people easily fall asleep near the campfire and then the wolves can attack. It is also said that at the wolf's moment young people strengthen and go towards a new day and the old and weak people die.	
Meaning nowadays	Used as an explanation for sleeplessness in the early morning. (woke up/couldn't sleep at the wolfs moment. (Finland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Suden hetki
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		





# Mythological

## expressions

Original language	Lähteä soitellen sotaan (Finland)	
Expression in English	Go into war playing drums and whistles.	
Background meaning in English	In the Finnish epic "Kalevala" young Kullervo is going to war and his mother asks him not to do so because he will fail. But young Kullervo doesn't want to listen to his mother and he leaves their home singing. And fails in everything.	
Meaning nowadays	Doing a task with weak skills but great (unfounded) confidence. (Finland)	
Greece		
Spain		
Italy		
Finland		Lähteä soitellen sotaan
Iceland		
Poland		
Latvia		