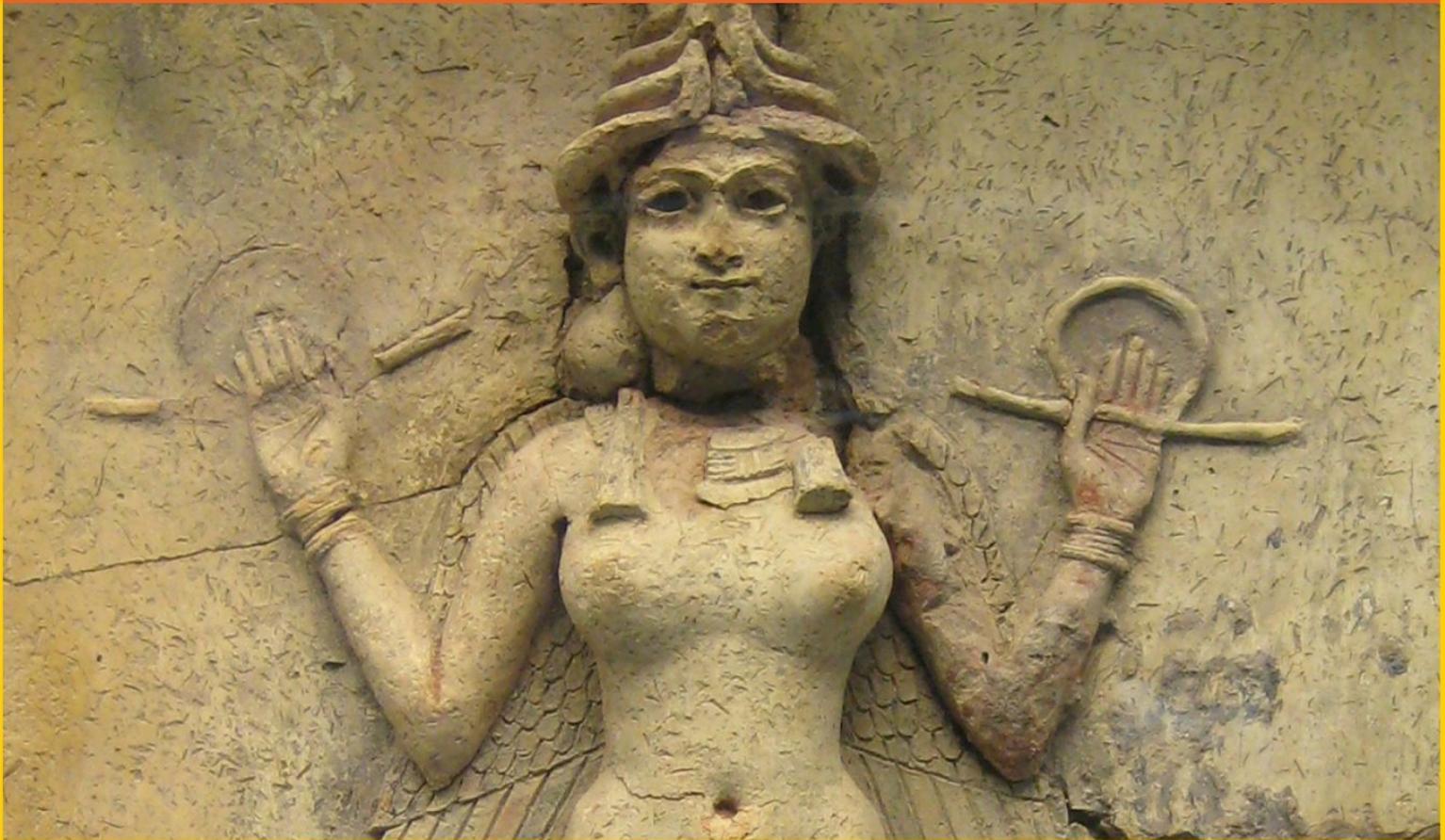


ENGLISH PLUS

WITH
ANSWER
KEY

PRACTICE WORKSHEETS



MYTHS AND LEGENDS

ISHTAR

Myths and Legends | Ishtar

Listening Practice | Intermediate

1. *Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.*

Character Overview

In the ancient Near East, Ishtar was an important and widely worshipped mother goddess for many Semitic peoples. The Sumerians called her Inanna, and other groups of the Near East referred to her as Astarte.

A complex figure, Ishtar combined the [1] _____ good and evil-of many different [2] _____. As a mother figure, she was considered the mother of gods and humans, as well as the creator of all [3] _____ blessings. In this role, she grieved over human [4] _____ and served as a protector of [5] _____ and motherhood. People also worshipped Ishtar as the goddess of sexual love and fertility. The more destructive side of Ishtar's nature emerged primarily in [6] _____ with war and storms. As a warrior goddess, she could make even the gods tremble in fear. As a storm goddess, she [7] _____ bring rain and thunder.

Major Myths

Some myths say that Ishtar was the daughter of the moon god Sin and sister of the sun god Shamash. Others mention the sky god Anu, the moon god Nanna, the water god Ea, or the god [8] _____, lord of the earth and the air, as her father.

Ishtar appears in many myths, but two are especially important. The first, part of the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, tells how [9] _____ offered to [10] _____ the hero-king Gilgamesh because she was impressed by his courage and exploits. According to the epic, Gilgamesh refused her offer and insulted Ishtar, reminding the goddess of all the previous lovers she had harmed. Enraged, Ishtar sent the fierce Bull of Heaven to kill Gilgamesh, but he and his [11] _____ Enkidu killed the beast instead.

The other [12] _____ myth of [13] _____ concerns her descent to the underworld (land of the dead) and the sacrifice of her husband Tammuz. In this story, Ishtar decided to visit the underworld, which was ruled by her [14] _____ Ereshkigal, perhaps to seize power there. Before departing, she instructed her follower Ninshubur to seek the help of the gods if she did not [15] _____.

To reach the underworld, Ishtar had to pass through seven gates and remove a

[16] _____ of her power-such as an article of clothing or a piece of jewelry-at each one. At the last gate, the goddess, naked and deprived of all her powers, met her sister Ereshkigal, who announced that Ishtar must die. She died immediately, and her corpse was hung on a stake.

Meanwhile, the god Enki learned from Ninshubur that Ishtar was missing and sent two messengers who restored her to life. However, in order to leave the underworld, Ishtar had to substitute another body for her own. The goddess offered her young [17] _____, Tammuz, to take her place. This tale of death and rebirth was [18] _____ with fertility and linked to the seasons and agricultural cycles, much like the story of Persephone in Greek mythology. In another version of the [19] _____, [20] _____ travels to the underworld to rescue Tammuz, who has died, and manages to [21] _____ him back-but only for part of each year. Thus the [22] _____ and rebirth of Tammuz is also linked to fertility and agricultural cycles.

Ishtar in Context

Ishtar and the myths about her provide interesting insight into ancient Near Eastern views on the roles of men and women in society. For example, [23] _____ is said to have had many relationships with men, gods, and animals. During those relationships, the males are [24] _____ always said to have suffered because they were distracted or weakened by Ishtar's power over them. This suggests that ancient Babylonians respected and revered [25] _____'s reproductive power. The [26] _____ given this powerful female goddess translated into [27] _____ for women in Babylonian society.

Though Near [28] _____ rulers were usually men, women were able to hold [29] _____ and prestigious religious and political positions. This changed as the male-dominated Judeo-Christian faiths arose in the Near East, and female-dominated rituals and practices associated with the worship of Ishtar were branded as evil. As the worship of Ishtar faded, women gradually lost their [30] _____, political, legal, and [31] _____ power.

Key Themes and Symbols

Ishtar was believed to be the representation of the planet [32] _____, and the eight-pointed star is a symbol commonly associated with her. As an extension of her role as the goddess of [33] _____ love, Ishtar was also the [34] _____ of prostitutes and alehouses. Prostitution was an important part of her cult, and her holy city Erech was [35] _____ as the town of the [36] _____ courtesans (prostitutes).

Ishtar in Art, Literature, and Everyday Life

In modern times, Ishtar has benefited from renewed interest in ancient mythologies of the Near East. The 1987 film *Ishtar*, starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and often cited as one of the biggest boxoffice failures in cinematic history, is not connected with the Babylonian goddess other than by name. The name Ishtar has also been used for characters in numerous video games and Japanese [37] _____, though most do not draw heavily from the mythology of the original goddess.

Read, Write, [38] _____, Discuss

In the Epic of Gilgamesh, the hero insults Ishtar by mentioning her many loves and the sad fates they met. Do you think modern [39] _____ who have a number of romantic relationships are viewed in a similarly negative way today? Do you think this same view applies to males who have several romantic relationships? Why or why not?

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| A. respect | B. goddesses | C. females |
| D. return | E. almost | F. sorrows |
| G. Think | H. symbol | I. sacred |
| J. protector | K. Venus | L. respect |
| M. Ishtar | N. friend | O. women |
| P. Ishtar | Q. marry | R. well-known |
| S. powerful | T. characteristics-both | U. death |
| V. connection | W. Enlil | X. story |
| Y. religious | Z. Ishtar | AA. sister |
| BB. associated | CC. known | DD. comics |
| EE. marriage | FF. could | GG. Ishtar |
| HH. domestic | II. Eastern | JJ. husband |
| KK. bring | LL. sexual | MM. earthly |

Listening Practice | Advanced

2. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

Character Overview

In the ancient Near East, Ishtar was an [1] _____ and widely [2] _____ [3] _____ goddess for many Semitic peoples. The Sumerians called her Inanna, and other [4] _____ of the Near East [5] _____ to her as Astarte.

A complex figure, Ishtar [6] _____ the characteristics-both good and evil-of many different goddesses. As a mother [7] _____, she was [8] _____ the mother of gods and humans, as well as the [9] _____ of all earthly blessings. In this role, she [10] _____ over [11] _____ sorrows and served as a [12] _____ of marriage and motherhood. [13] _____ also worshipped Ishtar as the goddess of [14] _____ love and [15] _____. The more destructive side of Ishtar's [16] _____ emerged primarily in connection with war and [17] _____. As a warrior [18] _____, she [19] _____ make even the gods [20] _____ in fear. As a [21] _____ goddess, she could bring rain and thunder.

[22] _____ [23] _____

Some myths say that Ishtar was the daughter of the moon god Sin and [24] _____ of the sun god Shamash. Others mention the sky god Anu, the moon god [25] _____, the [26] _____ god Ea, or the god [27] _____, lord of the [28] _____ and the air, as her father.

[29] _____ appears in many myths, but two are especially [30] _____. The first, part of the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, [31] _____ how Ishtar offered to [32] _____ the hero-king [33] _____ [34] _____ she was [35] _____ by his courage and exploits. [36] _____ to the epic, Gilgamesh [37] _____ her offer and insulted Ishtar, [38] _____ the goddess of all the previous lovers she had harmed. [39] _____, [40] _____ sent the fierce Bull of [41] _____ to kill [42] _____, but he and his friend Enkidu killed the [43] _____ instead.

The other well-known myth of Ishtar concerns her [44] _____ to the underworld (land of the dead) and the sacrifice of her husband Tammuz. In this story, [45] _____ decided to visit

the underworld, which was ruled by her sister Ereshkigal, perhaps to seize [46] _____ there. [47] _____ departing, she instructed her [48] _____ Ninshubur to seek the help of the gods if she did not [49] _____.

To reach the underworld, Ishtar had to pass through [50] _____ [51] _____ and [52] _____ a [53] _____ of her power-such as an article of clothing or a piece of jewelry-at each one. At the last gate, the goddess, naked and deprived of all her powers, met her sister [54] _____, who announced that [55] _____ must die. She died immediately, and her [56] _____ was hung on a stake.

[57] _____, the god Enki learned from Ninshubur that [58] _____ was missing and sent two [59] _____ who [60] _____ her to life. [61] _____, in order to leave the underworld, Ishtar had to substitute [62] _____ body for her own. The goddess offered her [63] _____ husband, Tammuz, to take her place. This tale of [64] _____ and [65] _____ was [66] _____ with fertility and linked to the seasons and agricultural [67] _____, much like the [68] _____ of [69] _____ in Greek [70] _____. In another version of the story, Ishtar [71] _____ to the underworld to [72] _____ Tammuz, who has died, and manages to bring him back-but only for part of each year. Thus the [73] _____ and rebirth of Tammuz is also linked to fertility and agricultural [74] _____.

Ishtar in [75] _____

Ishtar and the myths about her [76] _____ interesting insight into ancient Near [77] _____ views on the [78] _____ of men and [79] _____ in [80] _____. For example, Ishtar is said to have had many relationships with men, gods, and animals. [81] _____ those relationships, the males are almost always said to have suffered because they were distracted or weakened by Ishtar's power over them. This suggests that ancient Babylonians respected and revered women's reproductive power. The [82] _____ given this powerful female goddess [83] _____ into [84] _____ for [85] _____ in Babylonian society.

Though Near Eastern [86] _____ were usually men, [87] _____ were able to hold powerful and [88] _____ religious and [89] _____ positions. This changed as the male-dominated Judeo-Christian faiths arose in the Near East, and female-dominated rituals and practices associated with the worship of Ishtar were [90] _____ as evil. As the worship of Ishtar faded, [91] _____ gradually lost their religious, political, legal, and domestic

[92] _____ .

Key Themes and Symbols

Ishtar was [93] _____ to be the [94] _____ of the [95] _____ Venus, and the eight-pointed star is a [96] _____ commonly associated with her. As an extension of her role as the goddess of [97] _____ love, [98] _____ was also the protector of [99] _____ and [100] _____. Prostitution was an [101] _____ part of her cult, and her holy city [102] _____ was known as the town of the [103] _____ courtesans (prostitutes).

Ishtar in Art, Literature, and [104] _____ Life

In [105] _____ times, [106] _____ has benefited from renewed interest in ancient mythologies of the Near East. The 1987 film [107] _____, starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and [108] _____ cited as one of the biggest boxoffice failures in cinematic [109] _____, is not connected with the Babylonian [110] _____ other than by name. The name Ishtar has also been used for characters in numerous video games and [111] _____ comics, [112] _____ most do not draw heavily from the mythology of the original goddess.

Read, [113] _____, Think, Discuss

In the Epic of [114] _____, the hero insults Ishtar by mentioning her many loves and the sad fates they met. Do you think modern females who have a number of romantic [115] _____ are viewed in a similarly negative way [116] _____? Do you think this same view applies to [117] _____ who have several romantic relationships? Why or why not?

Spelling Practice

3. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

Character Overveiw

In the ancient Near East, Ishtir was an important and widely worshipped mother goddess for many Semitic peoples. Th Sumerians called her Inanna, and other groups of the Near East referred to hir as Astarte.

A complex figure, Ishtar combined tha characteristics-both good and evil-of many different goddesses. As a mother figure, shee was considered the mothar of gods and humans, as well as the creator of all earthly blessings. In this role, she grieved over human sorros and served as an protector of marriage and motherhood. People also worshipped Ishtar az the goddess of sexual love and fertility. The more destructive side of Ishtar’s nature emerged primarily inn connection with war and storms. As a warrior goddess, shee could make even the gods tremble in fear. As a stern goddess, she could bring rain and thunder.

Major Mytzs

Some myths say that Ishtar was the daughter of the mown god Sin and sister of the sun god Shamach. Others mention the sky god Anu, the moon god Nanna, tha water god Ea, or the god Enlil, lord of the earth and the ar, as her father.

Ishtar appears in many miths, but two are especially important. The first, part of the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, tells how Ishtir offered to marry the hero-king Gilgamesh becose she was impressed by his courage and exploits. According too the epic, Gilgamesh refused her offer and insulted Ishtar, remindng the goddess of all the previous lovers she hed harmed. Enraged, Ishtar sent the fierce Bull of Heaven to kill Gilgamesh, but he and hiz friend Enkidu killed the beast instead.

The other well-known myth off Ishtar concerns her descent to the underworld (land of the dead) and the sacrifice of her husband Tamuz. In this story, Ishtar decided to visit the underworld, which was ruld by her sistir Ereshkigal, perhaps to seize power there. Before departing, she instructed her follower Ninshubur to seek the help of the gody if she did not raturrn.

To reach the underworld, Ishtar had too pass through seven gates and remove a symbol off her power-such as an article of clothing or a piece

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of jewelry-at each one. Yt the last gate, the goddess, naked and deprived off all her powers, met her sister Ereshkigal, who announced that Ishtar must die. Sh died immediately, and her corpse was hung on a stake.

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Meanwhile, the god Enki learned from Ninshubur that Ishtar waz missing and sent two messengers whoe restored her to life. However, in order to leave the underworld, Ishtar hed to substitute another body for her own. The goddess affered her young husband, Tammuz, to take her place. This tale of death and rabirth was associated with fertility and linked to the seasons and agricultural cycles, muche like the story of Persephone in Greek mythology. In another version off the story, Ishtar travels too the underworld to rescue Tammuz, who has died, and manages to bring him back-but only for part of each year. Thus tha deith and rebirth of Tammuz is also linked to fertility and agricultural cycles.

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Ishtar inn Context

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Ishtar and the myths about her provide interesting ensight into ancient Near Easterne views on the roles of men and women in society. For example, Ishtar is said to have had many relationships with man, gods, and animals. During those relationships, the males are almost alwaes said to have suffered because they were distracted or weakened by lchtar’s power over them. This suggests that ancient Babylonians respected and revered womin’s reproductive power. The respect given this powerful fmal goddess translated into respect for women in Babylonien society.

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Though Near Eastern rulers were usually men, woman were able to hold powerful and prestigios religious and political positions. This changed as the maledominated Judeo-Christian faiths arose in the Near East, and female-dominated rituals and practices associated with tha worship of Ishtar were brandd as evil. As the worship of Ishtar faded, women gradually lost their religious, political, legal, end domestic power.

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Key Themes end Symbols

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Ishtar was believd to be the representation of the planet Venus, and the eight-pointed star iz a symbol commonly associated with her. As an extension of her role as tha goddess of sexual love, Ishtar was also the protector off prostitutes and alehouses. Prostitution was an important part of her cult, and her holy city Erech was known as tha town of the sacred cortesans (prostitutes).

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Ishtar in Arb, Literature, and Everyday Life

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In modern times, Ishtar haz benefited from renewed interest in ancient

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mythologies of the Near East. The 1987 film *Ishtar*, starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and often cited as one of the biggest boxoffice failures in cinematic history, is not connected with the Babylonian goddess other than by name. The name *Ishtar* has also been used for characters in numerous video games and Japanese comics, though most do not draw heavily from the mythology of the original goddess.

Read, Write, Think, Discuss

In the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, the hero insults *Ishtar* by mentioning her many loves and the sad fates they met. Do you think modern females who have an number of romantic relationships are viewed in a similarly negative way today? Do you think this same view applies to males who have several romantic relationships? Why or why not?

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77. _____
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81. _____
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Myths and Legends | Ishtar

Listening Practice | Intermediate

1. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

Character Overview

In the ancient Near East, Ishtar was an important and widely worshipped mother goddess for many Semitic peoples. The Sumerians called her Inanna, and other groups of the Near East referred to her as Astarte.

A complex figure, Ishtar combined the [1] characteristics-both good and evil-of many different [2] goddesses. As a mother figure, she was considered the mother of gods and humans, as well as the creator of all [3] earthly blessings. In this role, she grieved over human [4] sorrows and served as a protector of [5] marriage and motherhood. People also worshipped Ishtar as the goddess of sexual love and fertility. The more destructive side of Ishtar's nature emerged primarily in [6] connection with war and storms. As a warrior goddess, she could make even the gods tremble in fear. As a storm goddess, she [7] could bring rain and thunder.

Major Myths

Some myths say that Ishtar was the daughter of the moon god Sin and sister of the sun god Shamash. Others mention the sky god Anu, the moon god Nanna, the water god Ea, or the god [8] Enlil, lord of the earth and the air, as her father.

Ishtar appears in many myths, but two are especially important. The first, part of the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, tells how [9] Ishtar offered to [10] marry the hero-king Gilgamesh because she was impressed by his courage and exploits. According to the epic, Gilgamesh refused her offer and insulted Ishtar, reminding the goddess of all the previous lovers she had harmed. Enraged, Ishtar sent the fierce Bull of Heaven to kill Gilgamesh, but he and his [11] friend Enkidu killed the beast instead.

The other [12] well-known myth of [13] Ishtar concerns her descent to the underworld (land of the dead) and the sacrifice of her husband Tammuz. In this story, Ishtar decided to visit the underworld, which was ruled by her [14] sister Ereshkigal, perhaps to seize power there. Before departing, she instructed her follower Ninshubur to seek the help of the gods if she did not [15] return.

To reach the underworld, Ishtar had to pass through seven gates and remove a

[16] **symbol** _____ of her power-such as an article of clothing or a piece of jewelry-at each one. At the last gate, the goddess, naked and deprived of all her powers, met her sister Ereshkigal, who announced that Ishtar must die. She died immediately, and her corpse was hung on a stake.

Meanwhile, the god Enki learned from Ninshubur that Ishtar was missing and sent two messengers who restored her to life. However, in order to leave the underworld, Ishtar had to substitute another body for her own. The goddess offered her young [17] **husband** _____, Tammuz, to take her place. This tale of death and rebirth was [18] **associated** _____ with fertility and linked to the seasons and agricultural cycles, much like the story of Persephone in Greek mythology. In another version of the [19] **story** _____, [20] **Ishtar** _____ travels to the underworld to rescue Tammuz, who has died, and manages to [21] **bring** _____ him back-but only for part of each year. Thus the [22] **death** _____ and rebirth of Tammuz is also linked to fertility and agricultural cycles.

Ishtar in Context

Ishtar and the myths about her provide interesting insight into ancient Near Eastern views on the roles of men and women in society. For example, [23] **Ishtar** _____ is said to have had many relationships with men, gods, and animals. During those relationships, the males are [24] **almost** _____ always said to have suffered because they were distracted or weakened by Ishtar's power over them. This suggests that ancient Babylonians respected and revered [25] **women** _____'s reproductive power. The [26] **respect** _____ given this powerful female goddess translated into [27] **respect** _____ for women in Babylonian society.

Though Near [28] **Eastern** _____ rulers were usually men, women were able to hold [29] **powerful** _____ and prestigious religious and political positions. This changed as the male-dominated Judeo-Christian faiths arose in the Near East, and female-dominated rituals and practices associated with the worship of Ishtar were branded as evil. As the worship of Ishtar faded, women gradually lost their [30] **religious** _____, political, legal, and [31] **domestic** _____ power.

Key Themes and Symbols

Ishtar was believed to be the representation of the planet [32] **Venus** _____, and the eight-pointed star is a symbol commonly associated with her. As an extension of her role as the goddess of [33] **sexual** _____ love, Ishtar was also the [34] **protector** _____ of prostitutes and alehouses. Prostitution was an important part of her cult, and her holy city Erech was [35] **known** _____ as the town of the [36] **sacred** _____ courtesans (prostitutes).

Ishtar in Art, Literature, and Everyday Life

In modern times, Ishtar has benefited from renewed interest in ancient mythologies of the Near East. The 1987 film *Ishtar*, starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and often cited as one of the biggest boxoffice failures in cinematic history, is not connected with the Babylonian goddess other than by name. The name Ishtar has also been used for characters in numerous video games and Japanese [37] **comics** _____, though most do not draw heavily from the mythology of the original goddess.

Read, Write, [38] Think _____, Discuss

In the Epic of Gilgamesh, the hero insults Ishtar by mentioning her many loves and the sad fates they met. Do you think modern [39] **females** _____ who have a number of romantic relationships are viewed in a similarly negative way today? Do you think this same view applies to males who have several romantic relationships? Why or why not?

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| A. respect | B. goddesses | C. females |
| D. return | E. almost | F. sorrows |
| G. Think | H. symbol | I. sacred |
| J. protector | K. Venus | L. respect |
| M. Ishtar | N. friend | O. women |
| P. Ishtar | Q. marry | R. well-known |
| S. powerful | T. characteristics-both | U. death |
| V. connection | W. Enlil | X. story |
| Y. religious | Z. Ishtar | AA. sister |
| BB. associated | CC. known | DD. comics |
| EE. marriage | FF. could | GG. Ishtar |
| HH. domestic | II. Eastern | JJ. husband |
| KK. bring | LL. sexual | MM. earthly |

Listening Practice | Advanced

2. Fill in the blanks while you listen to the episode.

Character Overview

In the ancient Near East, Ishtar was an [1] **important** and widely [2] **worshipped** [3] **mother** goddess for many Semitic peoples. The Sumerians called her Inanna, and other [4] **groups** of the Near East [5] **referred** to her as Astarte.

A complex figure, Ishtar [6] **combined** the characteristics-both good and evil-of many different goddesses. As a mother [7] **figure**, she was [8] **considered** the mother of gods and humans, as well as the [9] **creator** of all earthly blessings. In this role, she [10] **grieved** over [11] **human** sorrows and served as a [12] **protector** of marriage and motherhood. [13] **People** also worshipped Ishtar as the goddess of [14] **sexual** love and [15] **fertility**. The more destructive side of Ishtar's [16] **nature** emerged primarily in connection with war and [17] **storms**. As a warrior [18] **goddess**, she [19] **could** make even the gods [20] **tremble** in fear. As a [21] **storm** goddess, she could bring rain and thunder.

[22] **Major** [23] **Myths**

Some myths say that Ishtar was the daughter of the moon god Sin and [24] **sister** of the sun god Shamash. Others mention the sky god Anu, the moon god [25] **Nanna**, the [26] **water** god Ea, or the god [27] **Enlil**, lord of the [28] **earth** and the air, as her father.

[29] **Ishtar** appears in many myths, but two are especially [30] **important**. The first, part of the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, [31] **tells** how Ishtar offered to [32] **marry** the hero-king [33] **Gilgamesh** [34] **because** she was [35] **impressed** by his courage and exploits. [36] **According** to the epic, Gilgamesh [37] **refused** her offer and insulted Ishtar, [38] **reminding** the goddess of all the previous lovers she had harmed. [39] **Enraged**, [40] **Ishtar** sent the fierce Bull of [41] **Heaven** to kill [42] **Gilgamesh**, but he and his friend Enkidu killed the [43] **beast** instead.

The other well-known myth of Ishtar concerns her [44] **descent** to the underworld (land of the dead) and the sacrifice of her husband Tammuz. In this story, [45] **Ishtar** decided to visit

the underworld, which was ruled by her sister Ereshkigal, perhaps to seize [46] **power** there. [47] **Before** departing, she instructed her [48] **follower** Ninshubur to seek the help of the gods if she did not [49] **return**.

To reach the underworld, Ishtar had to pass through [50] **seven** [51] **gates** and [52] **remove** a [53] **symbol** of her power-such as an article of clothing or a piece of jewelry-at each one. At the last gate, the goddess, naked and deprived of all her powers, met her sister [54] **Ereshkigal**, who announced that [55] **Ishtar** must die. She died immediately, and her [56] **corpse** was hung on a stake.

[57] **Meanwhile**, the god Enki learned from Ninshubur that [58] **Ishtar** was missing and sent two [59] **messengers** who [60] **restored** her to life. [61] **However**, in order to leave the underworld, Ishtar had to substitute [62] **another** body for her own. The goddess offered her [63] **young** husband, Tammuz, to take her place. This tale of [64] **death** and [65] **rebirth** was [66] **associated** with fertility and linked to the seasons and agricultural [67] **cycles**, much like the [68] **story** of [69] **Persephone** in Greek [70] **mythology**. In another version of the story, Ishtar [71] **travels** to the underworld to [72] **rescue** Tammuz, who has died, and manages to bring him back-but only for part of each year. Thus the [73] **death** and rebirth of Tammuz is also linked to fertility and agricultural [74] **cycles**.

Ishtar in [75] **Context**

Ishtar and the myths about her [76] **provide** interesting insight into ancient Near [77] **Eastern** views on the [78] **roles** of men and [79] **women** in [80] **society**. For example, Ishtar is said to have had many relationships with men, gods, and animals. [81] **During** those relationships, the males are almost always said to have suffered because they were distracted or weakened by Ishtar's power over them. This suggests that ancient Babylonians respected and revered women's reproductive power. The [82] **respect** given this powerful female goddess [83] **translated** into [84] **respect** for [85] **women** in Babylonian society.

Though Near Eastern [86] **rulers** were usually men, [87] **women** were able to hold powerful and [88] **prestigious** religious and [89] **political** positions. This changed as the male-dominated Judeo-Christian faiths arose in the Near East, and female-dominated rituals and practices associated with the worship of Ishtar were [90] **branded** as evil. As the worship of Ishtar faded, [91] **women** gradually lost their religious, political, legal, and domestic

[92] **power** _____ .

Key Themes and Symbols

Ishtar was [93] **believed** _____ to be the [94] **representation** _____ of the [95] **planet** _____ Venus, and the eight-pointed star is a [96] **symbol** _____ commonly associated with her. As an extension of her role as the goddess of [97] **sexual** _____ love, [98] **Ishtar** _____ was also the protector of [99] **prostitutes** _____ and [100] **alehouses** _____. Prostitution was an [101] **important** _____ part of her cult, and her holy city [102] **Erech** _____ was known as the town of the [103] **sacred** _____ courtesans (prostitutes).

Ishtar in Art, Literature, and [104] **Everyday** _____ Life

In [105] **modern** _____ times, [106] **Ishtar** _____ has benefited from renewed interest in ancient mythologies of the Near East. The 1987 film [107] **Ishtar** _____, starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and [108] **often** _____ cited as one of the biggest boxoffice failures in cinematic [109] **history** _____, is not connected with the Babylonian [110] **goddess** _____ other than by name. The name Ishtar has also been used for characters in numerous video games and [111] **Japanese** _____ comics, [112] **though** _____ most do not draw heavily from the mythology of the original goddess.

Read, [113] **Write** _____, Think, Discuss

In the Epic of [114] **Gilgamesh** _____, the hero insults Ishtar by mentioning her many loves and the sad fates they met. Do you think modern females who have a number of romantic [115] **relationships** _____ are viewed in a similarly negative way [116] **today** _____? Do you think this same view applies to [117] **males** _____ who have several romantic relationships? Why or why not?

Spelling Practice

3. In each line of text below there is one word that has been misspelled. Circle the misspelled word and then write the correct spelling of the word on the line on the right side of the page.

Character Overveiw

In the ancient Near East, **Ishtir** was an important and widely worshipped mother goddess for many Semitic peoples. **Th** Sumerians called her Inanna, and other groups of the Near East referred to **hir** as Astarte.

A complex figure, Ishtar combined **tha** characteristics-both good and evil-of many different goddesses. As a mother figure, **shee** was considered the **mothar** of gods and humans, as well as the creator of all earthly blessings. In this role, she grieved over human **sorros** and served as **an** protector of marriage and motherhood. People also worshipped Ishtar **az** the goddess of sexual love and fertility. The more destructive side of Ishtar’s nature emerged primarily **inn** connection with war and storms. As a warrior goddess, **shee** could make even the gods tremble in fear. As a **stern** goddess, she could bring rain and thunder.

Major Mytzs

Some myths say that Ishtar was the daughter of the **mown** god Sin and sister of the sun god **Shamach**. Others mention the sky god Anu, the moon god Nanna, **tha** water god Ea, or the god Enlil, lord of the earth and the **ar**, as her father.

Ishtar appears in many **miths**, but two are especially important. The first, part of the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, tells how **Ishtir** offered to marry the hero-king Gilgamesh **becose** she was impressed by his courage and exploits. According **too** the epic, Gilgamesh refused her offer and insulted Ishtar, **remindng** the goddess of all the previous lovers she **hed** harmed. Enraged, Ishtar sent the fierce Bull of Heaven to kill Gilgamesh, but he and **hiz** friend Enkidu killed the beast instead.

The other well-known myth **off** Ishtar concerns her descent to the underworld (land of the dead) and the sacrifice of her husband **Tamuz**. In this story, Ishtar decided to visit the underworld, which was **ruld** by her **sistir** Ereshkigal, perhaps to seize power there. Before departing, she instructed her follower Ninshubur to seek the help of the **gody** if she did not **ratern**.

To reach the underworld, Ishtar had **too** pass through seven gates and remove a symbol **off** her power-such as an article of clothing or a piece

1. Overview

2. **Ishtar**

3. **The**

4. **her**

5. **the**

6. **she**

7. **mother**

8. **sorrows**

9. **a**

10. **as**

11. **in**

12. **she**

13. **storm**

14. **Myths**

15. **moon**

16. **Shamash**

17. **the**

18. **air**

19. **myths**

20. **Ishtar**

21. **because**

22. **to**

23. **reminding**

24. **had**

25. **his**

26. **of**

27. **Tammuz**

28. **ruled**

29. **sister**

30. **gods**

31. **return**

32. **to**

33. **of**

of jewelry-at each one. **Yt** the last gate, the goddess, naked and deprived **off** all her powers, met her sister Ereshkigal, who announced that Ishtar must die. **Sh** died immediately, and her corpse was hung on a stake.

Meanwhile, the god Enki learned from Ninshubur that Ishtar **waz** missing and sent two messengers **whoe** restored her to life. However, in order to leave the underworld, Ishtar **hed** to substitute another body for her own. The goddess **affered** her young husband, Tammuz, to take her place. This tale of death and **rabirth** was associated with fertility and linked to the seasons and agricultural cycles, **much**e like the story of Persephone in Greek mythology. In another version **off** the story, Ishtar travels **too** the underworld to rescue Tammuz, who has died, and manages to bring him back-but only for part of each year. Thus **tha** **deith** and rebirth of Tammuz is also linked to fertility and agricultural **cycles**.

Ishtar **inn** Context

Ishtar and the myths about her provide interesting **ensight** into ancient Near **Easterne** views on the roles of men and women in society. For example, Ishtar is said to have had many relationships with **man**, gods, and animals. During those relationships, the males are almost **alwaes** said to have suffered because **theyi** were distracted or weakened by **lchitar**'s power over them. This suggests that ancient Babylonians respected and revered **womin**'s reproductive power. The respect given this powerful **fmal** goddess translated into respect for women in **Babylonien** society.

Though Near Eastern rulers were usually men, **woman** were able to hold powerful and **prestigious** religious and political positions. This changed as the **maledominated** Judeo-Christian faiths arose in the Near East, and female-dominated rituals and practices associated with **tha** worship of Ishtar were **brandd** as evil. As the worship of Ishtar faded, women gradually lost their religious, political, legal, **end** domestic power.

Key Themes **end** Symbols

Ishtar was **believd** to be the representation of the planet Venus, and the eight-pointed star **iz** a symbol commonly associated with her. As an extension of her role as **tha** goddess of sexual love, Ishtar was also the protector **off** prostitutes and alehouses. Prostitution was an important part of her cult, and her holy city Erech was known as **tha** town of the sacred **cortesans** (prostitutes).

Ishtar in **Arb**, Literature, and Everyday Life

In modern times, Ishtar **haz** benefited from renewed interest in ancient

34. **At**35. **of**36. **She**37. **was**38. **who**39. **had**40. **offered**41. **rebirth**42. **much**43. **of**44. **to**45. **the**46. **death**47. **cycles**48. **in**49. **insight**50. **Eastern**51. **men**52. **always**53. **they**54. **Ishtar**55. **women**56. **female**57. **Babylonian**58. **women**59. **prestigious**60. **male-dominated**61. **the**62. **branded**63. **and**64. **and**65. **believed**66. **is**67. **the**68. **of**69. **the**70. **courtesans**71. **Art**72. **has**

mythologies of the Near East. The 1987 film *Ishtar*, starring Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman and often cited as one of the biggest boxoffice failures in cinematic history, is not connected with the Babylonian goddess other than by name. The name Ishtar has also been used for characters in numerous video games and Japanese comics, though most do not draw heavily from the mythology of the original goddess.

Read, Write, Think, Discuss

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73. starring

74. biggest

75. in

76. also

77. games

78. of

79. goddess

80. Write

81. Epic

82. they

83. a

84. negative

85. not