

Q1 The classical authors such as Tacitus, medieval records like *Getica* of Jordanes, the *Historia Langobardorum*, and the Icelandic literary books such as *Elder Edda*, *Prose Edda*, and *Heimskringla* provide the principal sources of Norse mythology. The texts record myths, gods, and rituals.

Q2 Yggdrasill is the universe's world tree in Norse cosmology, and it symbolizes the universe's center. The tree has three roots that go to the world of death, frost-giants, and men. The tree links different realms and contains the well of wisdom where Odin paid an eye in exchange for information.

Q3 The Aesir and Vanir are two groups of gods in Norse mythology. The Aesir are gods of war and kingship, and the Vanir are fertility gods. There was a war between them, which resulted in a peace treaty, and as a result of this, there was an exchange of hostages, such as Njörd, Freyr, and Freyja, who joined the Aesir pantheon.

Q4 Odin is the Aesir's highest god, worshipped for his association with wisdom, war, poetry, and death. He gave an eye for knowledge at Mímir's well, hanged himself on Yggdrasill to become skilled in the runes, and delivered the mead of poetry to the gods. He is also the lord of Valhalla, where heroes who have died live.

Q5 Thor is the thunder god, storm god, and fertility god. He uses the hammer Mjölnir and is a defender of the gods, often fighting giants. Thor is the symbol of strength and defense for ordinary people and farmers. His goat-drawn chariot is linked with thunder.

Q6 Ragnarök is the doomsday predicted in Norse mythology when gods, giants, and monsters will have a final conflict. Major happenings include the killing of Odin by Fenrir and Thor fighting with Jörmungandr. The world will be burned to ashes and afterwards revived.

Q7 Balder is Odin's son, celebrated for his purity and beauty. His death by a mistletoe arrow directed by Loki is an emblem of the uncertainty of life. His death is among the central events heralding Ragnarök.

Q8 Loki is a trickster deity, sometimes assisting and tricking gods. He is the father of Hel, Fenrir, and Jörmungandr. Loki's work tends to create disorder, and he ultimately joins forces with the giants during Ragnarök.

Q9 The *Prose Edda* by Snorri Sturluson gives a systematic account of Norse mythology, such as cosmogony, gods, and Ragnarök. The *Poetic Edda* has mythological and heroic poems that maintain oral traditions.

Q10 The earth was formed out of Ymir's body, a giant of old. Odin and his brothers killed Ymir and used his flesh to create the earth, blood to make the sea, bones to form mountains, and skull to form the sky. Humans were fashioned from two trees, Ask and Embla.