

EPIC GUIDE - GRADES K-5

The Mahabharata: India's Great Epic

The story in a nutshell

The Mahabharata (mah-hah-BAH-rah-tah) is one of the longest and most loved stories in the world, told by the sage Vyasa (vee-AH-sah). It is about two groups of cousins in one royal family. The five Pandava (PAHN-dah-vah) brothers are brave and kind, and their best friend is Krishna (KRISH-nah), who is wise and playful. Their cousins, the hundred Kaurava (KOW-rah-vah) brothers, grow jealous and cheat the Pandavas out of their home in a tricky game of dice. After long years living in the forest, the Pandavas ask for their fair share back. Krishna tries hard to make peace, but the Kauravas refuse. At a place called Kurukshetra (koo-rook-SHEH-tra), the great warrior Arjuna (AR-joo-nah) feels unsure, and Krishna teaches him the famous lessons of the Bhagavad Gita (BUH-gah-vahd GEE-tah): do your best, be honest, and make good choices even when it is hard.

"Fairness, honesty, and good choices matter, even when they are hard."

The Mahabharata story in seven parts

1. Sage Vyasa tells the story of two royal families
2. Five Pandava brothers grow up brave and kind
3. Their cousins, the Kauravas, grow jealous
4. A tricky dice game costs the Pandavas their home
5. The brothers spend long years in exile in the forest
6. Krishna tries to make peace between the cousins
7. At Kurukshetra, Arjuna learns the lessons of the Gita

Talk about it

1. The Pandavas and the Kauravas were cousins. Why do you think sharing fairly is sometimes hardest with the people closest to us?
2. Before the battle, Krishna tried to make peace. When have you tried to solve a problem by talking first?
3. Arjuna felt unsure about doing something hard. Who helps you think clearly when you feel unsure?

Make a choices chart!

Make a choices chart! Draw two columns on a big sheet of paper. On one side, write or draw good choices the heroes made, like telling the truth, keeping a promise, and asking a wise friend for help. On the other side, write choices that caused trouble, like jealousy and unfairness. Talk about which column you want your choices to land in.

Teacher tip: pairs with lessons on fairness, conflict resolution, and making good choices; the collection page links all 43 Mahabharata episodes in story order for a full class unit.



Scan to listen to the episode

<https://www.mythicalmasalapodcast.com/stories/mahabharata>

More free printables: www.mythicalmasalapodcast.com/printables



Mahabharata Coloring Page

Coloring page: Arjuna and Krishna on the chariot!

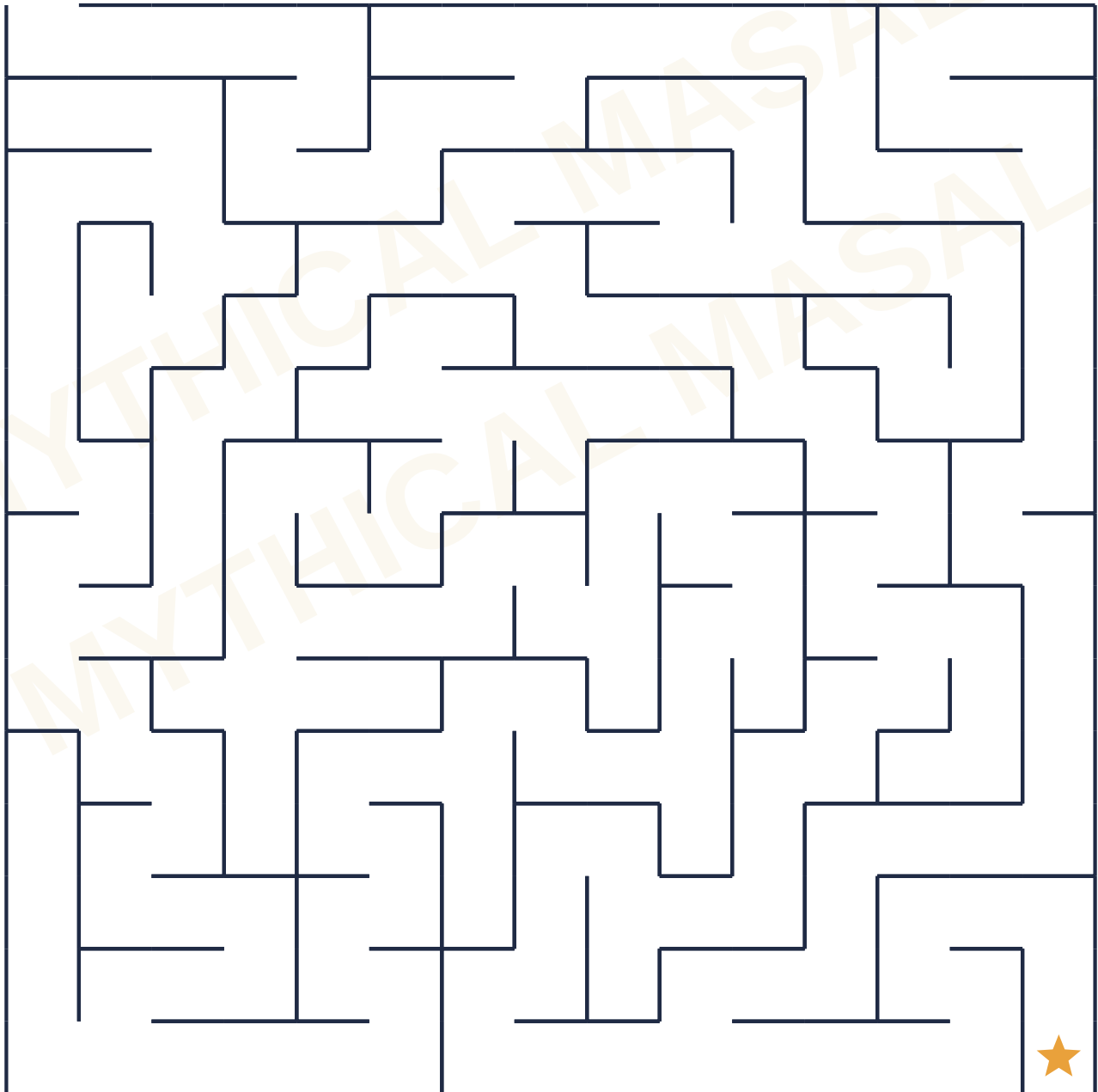


FIND YOUR WAY - MAZE

Help Arjuna reach Krishna's chariot!

Krishna is waiting by the chariot at Kurukshetra. Guide Arjuna through the maze to the star.

START



FINISH



WORD SEARCH

Mahabharata Word Search

V	T	U	E	C	I	D	K	V	B	I	W
Q	E	O	S	R	Q	R	B	S	W	F	A
F	C	U	K	R	I	H	V	D	G	A	U
V	O	Q	N	S	D	X	Z	P	B	I	A
T	U	W	H	R	E	T	S	U	P	R	C
A	A	N	A	G	C	N	U	A	M	N	U
N	A	V	I	E	I	H	N	O	D	E	E
U	X	T	A	S	V	D	A	W	B	S	L
J	A	O	U	R	A	Y	P	R	V	S	I
R	J	O	Y	V	U	I	A	K	I	W	X
A	C	T	A	E	H	A	Z	S	V	O	E
H	R	H	K	M	P	Q	K	U	A	X	T

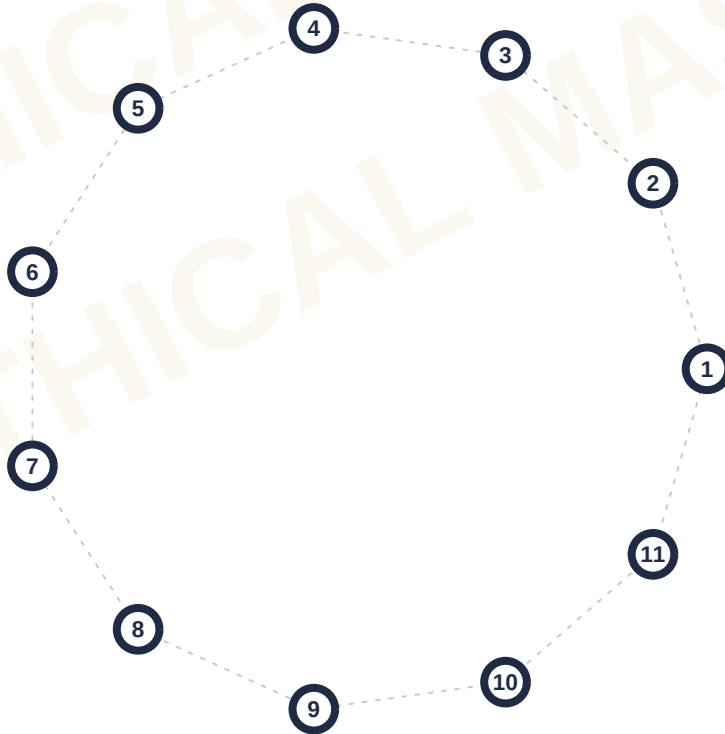
Find these words:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| - Arjuna | - Chariot | - Cousins |
| - Dice | - Exile | - Fairness |
| - Gita | - Kaurava | - Krishna |
| - Pandava | - Vyasa | |



CONNECT THE DOTS - 1 TO 11

Connect the dots: Chariot Wheel



Connect the dots from 1 to 11, then color your chariot wheel!



QUIZ TIME

Mahabharata Quiz

1. Who told the story of the Mahabharata?

2. How many Pandava brothers were there?

3. Who is the Pandavas' wise friend and Arjuna's charioteer?

4. What unfair game cost the Pandavas their home?

5. What famous lessons does Krishna teach Arjuna at Kurukshetra?

Answers (turn the page upside down!)

1. Sage Vyasa.
2. Five brothers.
3. Krishna.
4. A tricky dice game.
5. The Bhagavad Gita.

Word search answers

V	T	U	E	C	I	D	K	V	B	I	W
Q	E	O	S	R	Q	R	B	S	W	F	A
F	C	U	K	R	I	H	V	D	G	A	U
V	O	Q	N	S	D	X	Z	P	B	I	A
T	U	W	H	R	E	T	S	U	P	R	C
A	A	N	A	G	C	N	U	A	M	N	U
N	A	V	I	E	I	H	N	O	D	E	E
U	X	T	A	S	V	D	A	W	B	S	L
J	A	O	U	R	A	Y	P	R	V	S	I
R	J	O	Y	V	U	I	A	K	I	W	X
A	C	T	A	E	H	A	Z	S	V	O	E
H	R	H	K	M	P	Q	K	U	A	X	T

