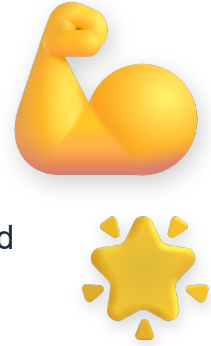


Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

## Kintarō, The Golden Boy

Long ago, in the rugged mountains of Japan, lived a boy named Kintarō, often called the "Golden Boy". He was raised by his mother, Yama-uba, a kind woman of the mountains, and spent his days surrounded by the forest's creatures. From a very young age, Kintarō possessed extraordinary strength, far beyond that of any ordinary child.



Instead of playing with other children, Kintarō befriended the wild animals. He wrestled bears for fun, always careful not to hurt them, and helped monkeys gather fruit from tall trees. He could chop down large trees with his bare hands or a small axe, clearing paths through the dense woods. His strength was legendary among the animals, who loved their gentle, powerful friend.

Though happy in the mountains, Kintarō was destined for a greater purpose. Tales of his incredible feats began to spread, reaching beyond the peaks and valleys. One day, a renowned samurai general, Minamoto no Yorimitsu, journeyed deep into the mountains, seeking the truth behind these stories. He found Kintarō, a strong boy with a red face, wrestling a giant bear.



Yorimitsu was amazed by Kintarō's power and the respect the animals showed him. He saw not just strength, but a pure heart and unwavering courage. The general invited Kintarō to leave his mountain home and join his elite band of samurai warriors. Kintarō, after saying a heartfelt goodbye to his animal friends and mother, accepted the offer.



Kintarō became a loyal and mighty samurai known as Sakata Kintoki, serving his lord with honor and bravery. His legend grew, teaching that true strength comes not only from physical power but also from a kind spirit and the courage to embrace one's destiny.

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**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

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**(1) Who is the main character in this myth, and what is their role?**

- A Kintarō, a boy with extraordinary strength who became a samurai.
- B Minamoto no Yorimitsu, a general who wrestled bears.
- C Yama-uba, a powerful samurai warrior.
- D Sakata Kintoki, a wild animal who helped Kintarō.

**(2) In this myth, Kintarō had to leave his mountain home in order to**

\_\_\_\_\_.

*— continue writing on the lines below*

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**(3) What does the word "renowned" mean as it is used in the story?**

- A Famous and well-known.
- B Quiet and shy.
- C Angry and upset.
- D Lost and confused.

**(4) Why did Kintarō leave his mountain home to join General Yorimitsu? What does this tell us about his character?**

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**(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?**

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