

1 Task. Read the text and watch the video.

Maadai-Kara

A long time ago on the Kazakh steppe, the great Bayterek tree grew. This special tree was called the World Tree and it united the upper, middle and lower worlds. Its branches reached into the heavens of the upper world, where two birds called out the number of days **remaining** until the end of the world. Its trunk belonged to the middle, or human world, ruled by Maadai-Kara, and its roots went deep into the underworld where the god, Erlik ruled.

Maadai-Kara had a glorious **reign** but as he grew old, he lost his power. One day, he fell asleep and his sleep lasted for sixty days. When he finally woke up, his enemies were close. He knew that when they approached even closer there would be a terrible war. Maadai-Kara had a **baby** son, Kögüdei Mergen. To keep him safe, he decided to take Kögüdei Mergen to the Black Mountain and leave him there, where a poor woman of Altai found him. Maadai-Kara returned to fight the battle, but he lost and the new ruler, Kara-Kula, made all of Maadai-Kara's people slaves.

On the Black Mountain, the poor woman of Altai took care of Kögüdei Mergen until he was ready to live his life on his own. When he was old enough, Kögüdei Mergen left the Black Mountain on his horse and rode across the land. He crossed a **poisonous** sea, made it through the moving mountains, and faced many monsters on his way until he reached the home of Kara-Kula and **defeated** him in **battle**.

Kögüdei Mergen set all his people free from being slaves. He became the new ruler and with the help of seven kaans, he married the beautiful Altyn Kүskү. But still, his quest was not over. He **descended** into the underworld, to the land where the dead **dwelt**. There, he fought Erlik, the lord of the underworld and won. Kögüdei Mergen **released** all the good souls from the underworld, leaving behind only those who were guilty of **committing terrible** acts in life. Kögüdei Mergen and his wife, Altyn Kүskү, ruled the land in peace and harmony for many years, bringing about a new golden age in the human world. When their lives came to an end, Kögüdei Mergen, Altyn Kүskү and the seven great kaans became stars. If you look into the sky on a clear night, you can still see them there, watching over the world.



Altyn Kүskү

2 Complete the sentences. Use: *grew, lost, fought, took, rode, faced.*

- 1 Maadai-Kara and Kara-Kula a great battle.
- 2 Kögüdei Mergen many dangers on his journey from the Black Mountain.
- 3 A poor woman care of the baby Kögüdei Mergen.
- 4 Kara-Kula waited until Maadai-Kara old before he attacked.
- 5 Kögüdei Mergen his horse all the way to the home of Kara-Kula.
- 6 Maadai-Kara was once a great ruler, but he his power.

3 Match the words in bold in the text to their definitions.

- doing bad things
- the time he ruled the kingdom
- left
- went down
- set free
- beat him in a fight
- fight between two armies
- live