LEGEND OF THE ENCHANTED LAGOON



In the highlands of Ecuador, nestled among the Andes mountains, there is a mystical lagoon known as Laguna Encantada. The locals believe that this lagoon is enchanted, and many stories have been told about its magical properties. One of the most famous legends is about a young shepherd named Diego and his encounter with the enchantment of the lagoon.

Diego was a humble shepherd who spent his days tending to his flock near the beautiful yet mysterious Laguna Encantada. He had heard tales of strange happenings around the lagoon but paid little attention to them, focusing instead on his daily tasks. However, one fateful evening, as the sun began to set, Diego noticed something unusual, a soft, melodious singing drifted from the direction of the lagoon. Curious, Diego followed the sound and found a beautiful woman standing by the water's edge. She had an ethereal glow and a crown of flowers on her head. The woman introduced herself as Mariela, the guardian spirit of the lagoon. She explained that she protected the lagoon and its secrets. Mariela told Diego that the lagoon had the power to grant a single wish to anyone who proved themselves pure of heart. She warned, however, that the wish would come with a test of character. Diego, who had always dreamt of a better life for his family, decided to take the test. Mariela instructed him to dive into the lagoon at midnight and retrieve a magical pearl from its depths. As midnight approached, Diego bravely dove into the lagoon. He swam deeper and deeper, guided by a faint, glowing light. Finally, he found the pearl, shining brightly. As he reached out to grab it, a voice echoed in his mind, reminding him of the importance of selflessness and integrity. Diego surfaced with the pearl in hand. Mariela reappeared and asked him what he wished for. After a moment of thought, Diego wished for the well-being and prosperity of his entire village, not just for himself. Moved by his selflessness, Mariela granted his wish, and the lagoon's magic transformed the village into a place of abundance and happiness.

From that day on, Diego was celebrated as a hero, and the story of his encounter with Mariela and the enchanted lagoon was passed down through generations. The legend of Laguna Encantada reminds everyone of the power of selflessness and the magic that can come from a pure heart.

Reading Comprehension Questions



1. **What is the name of the mystical lagoon in the legend?**
   - a) Laguna Mágica
   - b) Laguna Encantada
   - c) Laguna Misteriosa
   - d) Laguna Hermosa
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2. **Who was Diego?**
   - a) A fisherman
   - b) A young shepherd
   - c) A prince
   - d) A warrior
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3. **What unusual event drew Diego to the lagoon one evening?**
   - a) A bright light in the sky
   - b) Strange animal sounds
   - c) A soft, melodious singing
   - d) A sudden storm

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4. **Who did Diego meet at the lagoon?**
   - a) An old wise man
   - b) A fisherman
   - c) A beautiful woman named Mariela
   - d) A group of children



5. **What was Diego's test to prove himself pure of heart?**
   - a) Retrieve a magical pearl from the lagoon's depths
   - b) Climb the highest mountain
   - c) Solve a series of riddles
   - d) Find a hidden treasure in the forest

6. **What did Diego wish for after retrieving the pearl?**
   - a) Wealth and power for himself
   - b) A long and healthy life
   - c) The well-being and prosperity of his entire village
   - d) To become the ruler of the land



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