

Creation Stories: Beliefs and Beginnings

Learning objective: To evaluate and compare different religious and non-religious accounts of how the world was created.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of creation stories from various traditions to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers. Write in full sentences where appropriate.

Across the globe, different cultures and religions have developed stories to explain the origins of the universe. Some stories describe a divine creator bringing the world into being through purposeful acts, while others focus on the natural evolution of the cosmos. Ellie the elephant reminds us that these stories are often deeply important to the people who hold them, helping them understand their place in the world and their duty to care for it.

Word bank: Stewardship · Origin · Universe · Interpret · Sacred · Symbolic · Responsibility · Tradition

1. Define the term 'creation story' in your own words. (2 marks)

2. Identify one common theme often found in religious creation stories. (1 mark)

3. Explain why some people might view creation stories as symbolic rather than literal historical facts. (3 marks)

4. Compare a religious view of creation with a scientific view. How do they differ in their approach to explaining the universe? (4 marks)

5. Justify why it is important for human beings to show 'stewardship' towards the Earth, based on the teachings found in many creation narratives. (4 marks)

6. What might happen to a community if they stopped sharing their traditional stories about the origins of the world? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

7. Write a short reflective paragraph (5 marks) answering the following: 'If you were to write a story about how our planet began, what values would you want your story to teach future generations and why?' (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the concept of 'stewardship'—how humans look after the world they have been given.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research two different creation myths from ancient civilisations. Write a comparison explaining how the environment of those civilisations influenced their stories. (e.g., Did a desert civilisation focus on water? Did a coastal civilisation focus on the sea?)