

Creation Stories: Understanding Our World

Learning objective: To understand that creation stories are symbolic narratives used by various cultures and religions to explain the origins of the world and humanity.

Read the passage carefully about how different cultures explain the beginnings of the world. Then, answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Across the globe, every culture has developed stories to explain how the world began. These are known as creation stories. Ellie the elephant, who loves collecting stories from history, explains that these narratives are not meant to be read like a modern science textbook. Instead, they are symbolic stories that help people understand their place in the universe. In many traditions, creation is described as a deliberate act, often involving a creator or divine force that brings order out of chaos. Other stories describe the world emerging from nature, such as the sky and earth separating to create space for life. While the details vary—from the tools used by creators to the animals involved—the core message is often the same: life is precious and has a purpose. Studying these stories helps us appreciate why different groups of people hold certain beliefs about the environment and their responsibilities toward one another. By listening to these ancient voices, we learn that humans have always been curious about where we come from and why we are here.

Word bank: narrative · symbolic · origins · humanity · perspective · tradition

1. According to the passage, how should we read creation stories rather than reading them like a science textbook? (2 marks)

2. Name two ways that creation is described in the passage. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the author mentions that humans have 'always been curious' about their origins? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'bringing order out of chaos' suggest about the state of the world before creation? (2 marks)

5. Do you think learning about creation stories from different cultures is important? Explain your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the beginning of the world based on your own imagination, using symbols like the sun, water, or trees to show life starting.



Extension challenge: Research one creation story from a specific religion or culture (such as Aboriginal Australian, Norse, or Ancient Egyptian mythology). Write a short summary explaining the main event in that story.