Exploring Creation Stories: Origins and Beliefs

Learning objective: To identify, compare, and reflect upon different religious and non-religious views regarding the origins of the world.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of creation narratives to provide thoughtful answers. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly.

Nova the owl is looking up at the stars tonight, wondering how everything began. Different cultures and religions have their own stories about the creation of the world. Some people believe in a divine creator who brought the universe into existence, while others look to scientific theories about the Big Bang. Many stories use symbolism to explain why the world is beautiful and why humans have a duty to look after it, a concept often called stewardship.

Word bank: Stewardship · Origin · Universe · Sacred · Interpretation · Belief · Symbolism · Responsibility

1. Explain why many religions include a creation story in their sacred texts. What is the main purpose of these narratives? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast a religious creation story with a scientific explanation of the universe. How are they similar, and how are they different? (3 marks)

3. Nova wonders about the concept of 'stewardship'. Justify why many creation stories teach that humans have a responsibility to care for the Earth. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if all cultures stopped sharing their traditional stories about how the world began? (2 marks)

5. Identify one piece of symbolism often found in creation stories (e.g., light, water, or animals) and explain what it represents. (2 marks)

6. Some people believe that creation stories and scientific theories can exist together. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents your own interpretation of the beginning of the world. Include elements that show how nature is connected to the start of life.

Extension challenge: Write a short poem or a 'creation myth' of your own. Your story should explain the origin of one natural feature, such as why the mountains are tall or why the moon changes its shape. Use descriptive language to explain how your world was formed.