

Creation Stories: Perspectives and Patterns

Learning objective: To compare and contrast different creation stories and understand how they convey beliefs about the world, nature, and the role of humanity.

In this creative sorting and analytical task, Ellie the elephant is helping us explore how different cultures explain the origins of the universe. Read the thematic categories below. Sort the concepts into the correct columns. Then, use your knowledge of world religions and belief systems to answer the deeper thinking questions.

Word bank: Divine command · Evolutionary theory · Harmony · Stewardship · Chaos to order · Natural elements · Purposeful design · Interconnectedness

1. Compare and contrast a creation story where the world is formed from chaos versus one formed by a single purposeful act. What does each suggest about the nature of the creator? (4 marks)

2. Explain why many creation stories include the concept of 'stewardship' or caring for the Earth. How does this influence the way believers treat the environment today? (3 marks)

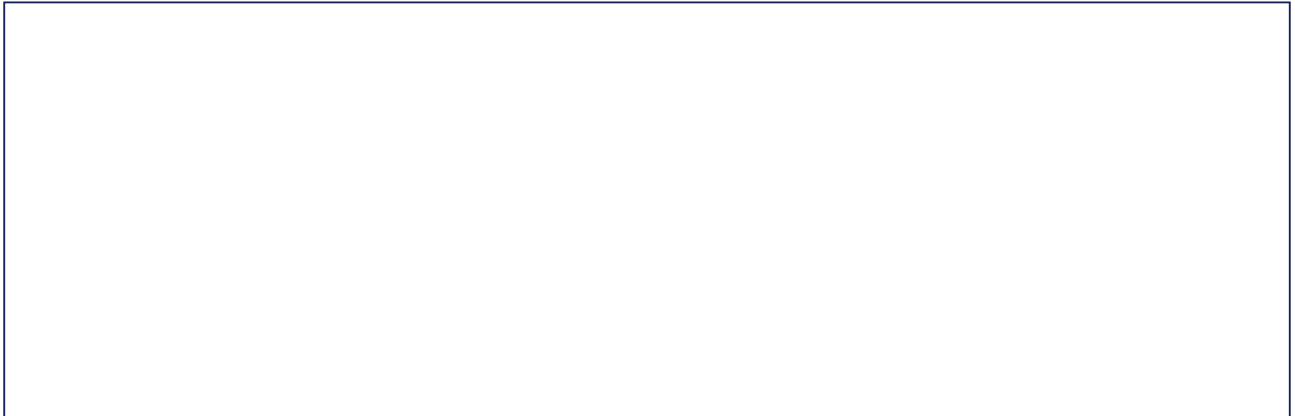
3. Justify your answer: Is it possible for a person to believe in both a religious creation story and scientific theories about the origin of the universe? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

4. If you were to write a creation story that features only the natural elements (water, earth, wind, fire) as the 'creators', what would be the first thing they would build together and why? (3 marks)

5. What might happen if a society stopped teaching its creation stories? Discuss the impact on their sense of identity and shared history. (3 marks)

6. Create a Venn diagram in your head: What are the similarities and differences between the role of humanity in a creation story versus the role of humanity in modern science? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene that represents the 'beginning of time' as described in a creation story of your choice. Instead of just drawing symbols, focus on using patterns and colors to show the transition from emptiness to a vibrant, living world, as Zara the zebra would do.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, that describes the creation of the stars. Your poem should include at least three metaphors and reflect a sense of wonder and mystery.