

Creation Stories: Exploring Beliefs and Origins

Learning objective: To understand and compare different creation stories, recognising how they express beliefs about the world, humanity, and the divine.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of creation narratives. Read the term or question on the front, recall the answer, then check your understanding.

What is a 'Creation Story'?

A traditional narrative that explains how the world began and how humanity came to exist within it.

In the Abrahamic tradition, what is the significance of the first book of the Bible, Genesis?

It describes the creation of the universe by one God in six days, followed by a day of rest.

Define 'Stewardship' in the context of creation.

The belief that humans have a duty to care for and protect the natural world, as it is a precious gift.

Why do many creation stories include elements of nature like water, light, or animals?

These elements represent the fundamental parts of life that cultures rely on, highlighting the connection between the divine and the earth.

Explain the term 'Cosmogony'.

A technical word used to describe any scientific or religious theory regarding the origin of the universe.

What is meant by a 'Sacred' text?

A piece of writing that is considered holy and authoritative by a religious group because they believe it contains truth about the divine.

How do creation stories differ from scientific theories like the Big Bang?

Creation stories focus on the 'why' and the 'purpose' of existence, whereas scientific theories focus on the 'how' and the physical evidence of the universe's development.

Does every culture have a creation story?

Yes, almost every culture across history has developed narratives to explain their origins and their place in the cosmos.

If a creation story depicts the world being made from a giant egg, what might this symbolise?

It often symbolises potential, new life, and the idea that everything was contained within a single, fragile source before the world began.

Why is it important to show respect when learning about different religious creation stories?

Because these stories are deeply meaningful to believers and represent their core values, identity, and understanding of life.

Max the monkey wonders: If someone believes the world was created with care, how might that change how they treat their environment?

They might feel a stronger moral responsibility to avoid waste and look after plants and animals, viewing the world as something to be cherished rather than just used.

Ellie the elephant asks: Why might a community keep their creation story alive for thousands of years?

To preserve their history, pass down cultural identity to the next generation, and ensure that the values held by their ancestors are not forgotten.