

Creation Stories: Sorting the Traditions

Learning objective: To understand and compare different religious and non-religious perspectives on the origins of the universe and life.

Ellie the elephant has been traveling the world to learn how different cultures explain the beginning of the world. Below is a list of features, symbols, and beliefs. Sort these into the correct 'worldview' category: The Abrahamic Tradition (Christianity/Judaism/Islam), The Hindu Tradition, or The Scientific Perspective.

Word bank: Big Bang · Seven days · Brahma · Evolution · Stewardship · Cyclical time · Creator God · Evidence · Cosmic Egg

1. Sort the word bank terms into the three categories: Abrahamic Tradition, Hindu Tradition, and Scientific Perspective. Explain why you placed one of your chosen terms in that specific category. (6 marks)

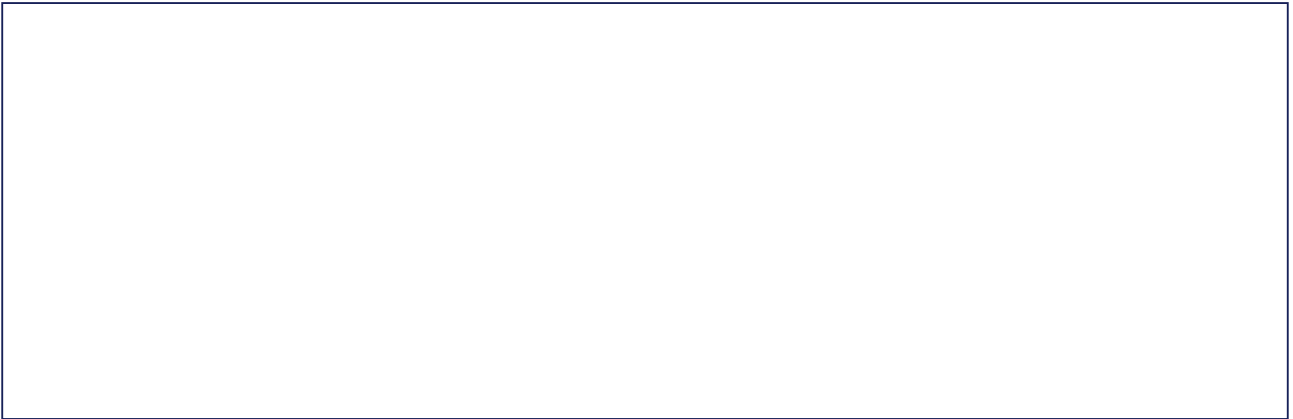
2. What does the concept of 'Stewardship' suggest about how humans should treat the Earth, regardless of which creation story they believe? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think different cultures developed different stories to explain how the world began? (2 marks)

4. Can a person believe in the Scientific Perspective (like the Big Bang) and also hold a religious belief? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

5. Ellie found a story where the world is shaped like a giant lotus flower. Which tradition do you think this belongs to and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Creation Map' that shows one symbol from each of the three traditions mentioned (e.g., a lightbulb for science, a garden for Abrahamic, and a lotus for Hindu).



Extension challenge: Research a creation story from a culture not mentioned here, such as the Aboriginal Australian 'Dreamtime' stories or Norse mythology. Write a short paragraph explaining how it describes the beginning of the world.