

Creation Stories: A Comparative Fact-File

Learning objective: To compare and contrast different creation stories, identifying common themes and unique perspectives.

In this activity, you will act as a researcher, much like Ellie the elephant. Choose two different creation stories from world religions or traditions. Research the details of each story and fill in the sections below to compare how different cultures explain the origins of the world.

Word bank: origins · deity · sacred · tradition · existence · symbolism · narrative · perspective

1. The First Narrative: Briefly summarise the key events of your first chosen creation story. Who or what is responsible for the world's beginning? (3 marks)

2. The Second Narrative: Briefly summarise the key events of your second chosen creation story. How does this compare to the first one? (3 marks)

3. Explain why many creation stories include elements of nature, such as light, water, or animals. What might these symbols represent? (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast: Identify one significant similarity and one significant difference between these two stories. (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why do you think ancient civilisations felt it was important to create stories about how the world began? (5 marks)

6. What might happen if a culture did not have a creation story? How might this affect the way a community views their environment or their purpose? (6 marks)

Extension challenge: Creative Task: Imagine you are tasked with writing a brand-new creation story. Write a short paragraph describing how the universe came to be, focusing on the use of metaphor and vivid imagery. Once finished, write a reflection explaining which natural elements you chose to include and why.