

Creation Stories: Perspectives and Interpretations

Learning objective: To analyse and compare creation stories from different worldviews, understanding how they explain the origins of life and the human relationship with the natural world.

Read the questions carefully and use your knowledge of religious and non-religious worldviews to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned responses. Refer to specific beliefs where appropriate.

Creation stories, or cosmogonies, are narratives that explain how the universe and life began. Across various cultures and religions, these stories often reflect the values, history, and environment of the people who tell them. Some traditions emphasise a purposeful design by a divine creator, while others focus on natural processes or philosophical concepts. Ellie the elephant, who loves to study history, reminds us that while these stories differ in their details, they all attempt to answer the big questions: Where did we come from, and what is our purpose here?

Word bank: Origin · Stewardship · Interpretation · Symbolism · Cosmology · Creator · Evolution · Responsibility

1. Compare and contrast a religious creation story with the scientific theory of evolution. How do they differ in their explanation of how life began? (3 marks)

2. Many creation stories describe humanity's role as 'stewards' of the Earth. Explain why this concept is important in today's world. (2 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Is it possible for a person to believe in both a religious creation story and scientific theories at the same time? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the way people treat the environment if they stopped viewing the world as a 'gift' and started viewing it merely as a 'resource'? (2 marks)

5. Identify two examples of symbolism often found in creation stories (e.g., light, water, or breath) and explain what they might represent. (2 marks)

Draw: Create a split-page illustration. On the left side, draw a scene representing a traditional religious creation story. On the right side, draw a scene representing the scientific Big Bang theory. Include details that show the beauty of the natural world in both.



Extension challenge: Write a short, original myth (150-200 words) that explains how the stars were placed in the night sky. Nova the owl wants to know: what moral lesson or value does your story teach the reader about the importance of the universe?