Creation Stories: Exploring Beliefs and Origins

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of creation stories. Read the term or question on the left, try to recall the answer, then check the text after the 'Answer:' marker.

What does the term 'Ex Nihilo' mean in the context of creation?

It is a Latin phrase meaning 'out of nothing', referring to the belief that a divine being created the universe from nothingness.

In the book of Genesis, how long does the creation process take?

According to the traditional account, the world is created in six days, with a day of rest on the seventh.

What is the scientific 'Big Bang Theory'?

A theory suggesting the universe began as a tiny, hot, dense point approximately 13.8 billion years ago and has been expanding ever since.

How might a person interpret a creation story 'symbolically'?

They might view the story as a way to explain the relationship between humans and the world, rather than as a factual, historical report.

What is 'Stewardship' in religious traditions?

The belief that humans have a responsibility to look after and protect the Earth as caretakers of creation.

What do many people who follow Humanism believe about our origins?

Humanists generally rely on scientific evidence and evolution to explain the origins of life rather than religious creation stories.

What is the difference between a 'Literal' and 'Non-literal' interpretation?

A literal interpretation believes the text is an exact factual account, while a non-literal interpretation looks for deeper meanings or metaphors.

Why do many religions include a day of rest in their creation narratives?

It represents a pattern of balance, reflection, and setting aside time to appreciate the work of creation.

True or False: Creation stories are found only in one specific religion.

False. Creation narratives exist in almost every culture and religion throughout human history.

What does Nova the owl often say about science and wonder?

Nova teaches that asking big questions about our origins is the first step toward understanding the beauty of our universe.