



NATIVE AMERICAN CREATION MYTHS

The Osage Creation Account

The Navajo Creation Myth

WITH
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UNIT 1 Shaping the New World
Origins of the American Tradition to 1800

A SEEM school
FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL
Home of the Space Generation



SPEAK YOUR MIND

Since the dawn of time, humanity has been plagued with many existential questions. Chief among them:

Where do we come from?

Why are we here?

Take a minute to consider and answer the reasons we mull over these questions.

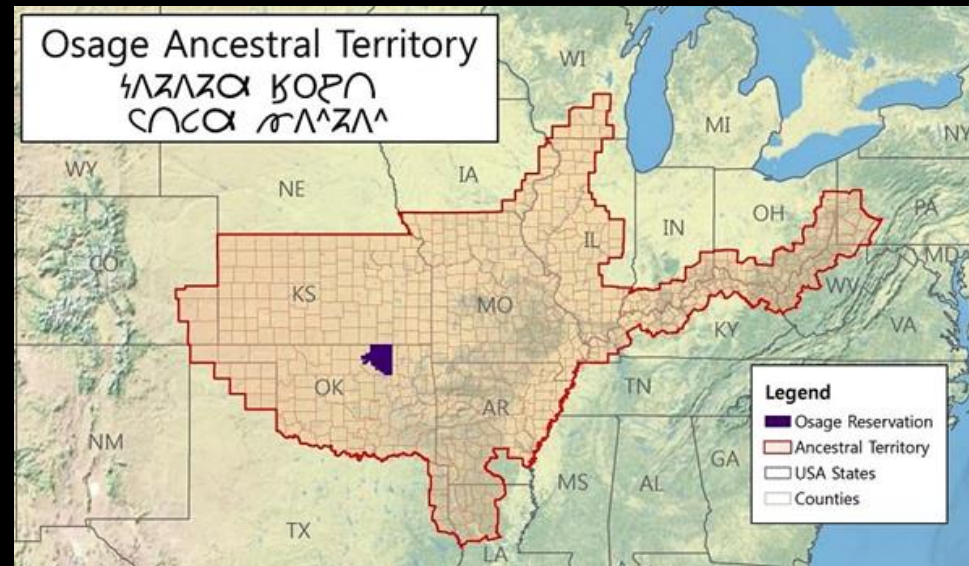
CREATION MYTHS DEFINED



A **creation myth** is a supernatural mytho-religious story or explanation that describes the beginnings of humanity, earth, life, and the universe (cosmogony), usually as a deliberate act of "creation" by one or more deities. Creation myths are a prevalent motif around the world. Today we'll see two.

THE OSAGE CREATION ACCOUNT

The Osage Nation developed in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys around 700 BC. They were known as bold warriors, skilled hunters and preservers of family life. Between 1808 & 1825, treaties with the United States resulted in the cessation of Osage tribal land across Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. The Osage relocated to Indian Territory in Oklahoma, site of present-day Osage County. You'll read their creation story.

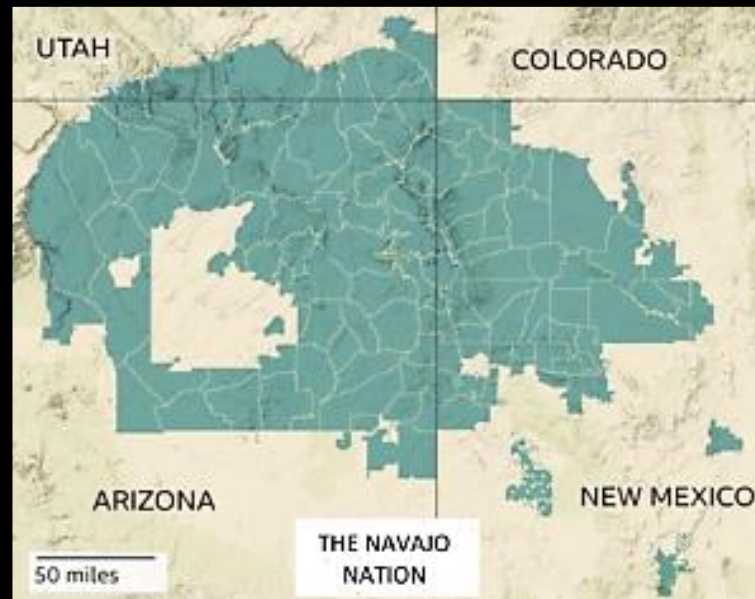


Today you'll read about how the Wazha'zhe people, who live in the Sky arrived to Earth with the help of the elk.

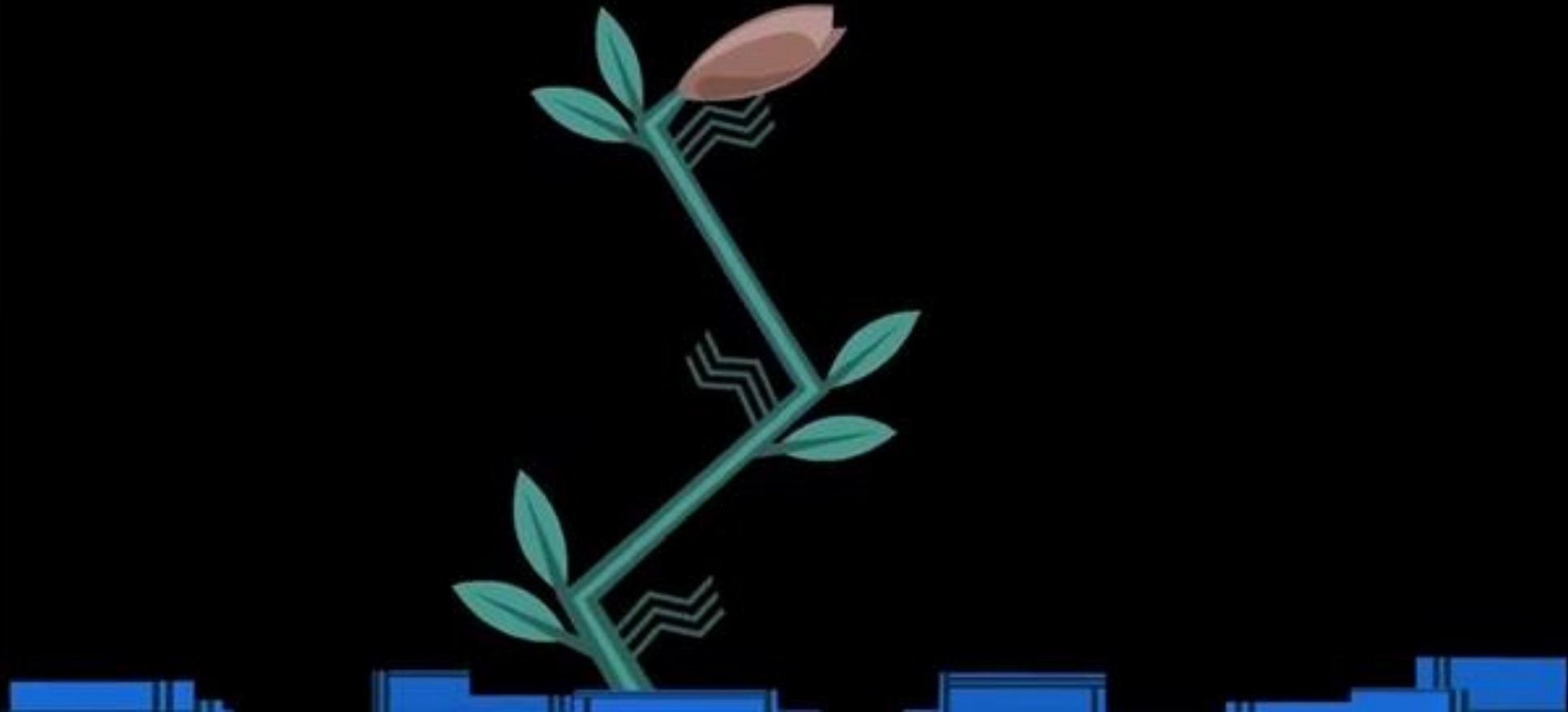


THE NAVAJO CREATION MYTH

The first Navajo lived in western Canada some one thousand years ago. Their traditional homeland spans from Arizona through western New Mexico, where the Navajo had houses, planted crops and raised livestock. The Navajo people call themselves Dine', literally meaning "The People." The Dine' speak about their arrival on the earth as a part of their story on the creation.



Today you'll read about how Begochiddy created the fourth and final version of the world that currently exists.





LITERARY ELEMENTS

Chronological Order

Refers to the arrangement of details in order of their occurrence. It is the primary method of organization used in narrative writing.

Origin Myth

A story that explains objects or events in the natural world as resulting from the direct action of some supernatural force or entity, most often a god.

AS YOU READ

As you read the creation myths of the Osage and Navajo, make a chronological list of the events that occur in each myth. Generate questions about how the two peoples explain the natural forces that both create and sustain their world. What similarities do they share?



ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 9-12 in your book, complete the activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - Myth and Chronological Order - These two creation myths start in distinctly opposite places: one in the sky, and the other in worlds below. What does this origin suggest about how each culture views its connection to the natural world? Use examples to support your answer. Compare the lists you compiled of the chronological order of events that occur in the Osage and Navajo myths. How similar are the two narratives? Explain.



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