



## WORLD MYTHOLOGY

### Creation Unit Study Questions

#### Enuma Elish – Mesopotamian (R150-158)

1. Draw a family tree of the initial gods, and list what each rules.
2. How does the young gods' behavior affect Tiamat, Apsu, and Mummu? What is the opinion of Tiamat, Apsu, and Mummu about how to solve the problem?
3. How do the young gods react to this plan? How is this similar to the Greek creation myth?
4. How is Marduk described, and who is he?
5. What causes the gods to quarrel again? How is Tiamat convinced to fight, and how does she plan to win?
6. What role does Anshar play in the battle of the gods?
7. Who alone will face Tiamat? Why does he think that he can defeat her? What does this tell you about Mesopotamian culture?
8. What does Marduk demand in return for his services? Before granting this, how do the other gods test him? What Biblical parallels do you see?
9. Of what does Marduk accuse Tiamat? How does Marduk demand to fight Tiamat? Why does he want it this way?
10. What does Marduk do with the parts of Tiamat's body? Be specific.
11. What is the significance of the cruel way in which Marduk treats Tiamat's body after he kills her?
12. How do you think the people of Babylon feel about this myth?
13. Of what were humans made? Why?

#### Fire and Ice – Norse (F20-23)

1. Identify the following terms and explain their significance to creation:
  - Ginnungagap
  - Muspelheim



- Niflheim
- Hvergelmir
- Frost Giants
- Ymir
- Audhumla
- Bergelmir
- Midgard
- Yggdrasil
- Ask and Embla

2. How did the first humans come to be? The first god? The earth itself? Be specific.

3. Draw a family tree of Buri's descendants.

#### The Floating World – Ainu of Japan (P24-25)

1. What existed in the beginning?

2. Describe the role of Kamui, the trout, the wagtail, the devil, and the crow in this story.

3. What is the significance of so many animals playing a large role in the Ainu myth?

4. Of what are humans made? Compare this to other cultures – what might this indicate about the Ainu people?

#### Chinese Creation (R359-362)

1. What existed in the beginning?

2. How did Pangu order the universe and ensure that life could exist?

3. How did the earth come about? Be specific.

4. Compare Pangu to Jesus Christ.

5. What are the two ways that humans came about? What does this explain about humankind? Compare this to other cultures.

6. What are yin and yang?

7. Who is Gong Gong and what does he do? What or who are his parallels in other creation stories?



### An Earthly Paradise – Zoroastrian of Iran (P30-31)

1. What existed in the beginning?
2. How was the world created? Compare this to the Biblical creation.
3. Who is Ahriman? What happens to him, and how does he react?
4. How were the first humans made? Compare this to other cultures.
5. How does Ahura Mazda solve the problems that Ahriman creates?
6. Who are Mashya and Mashyoi? What do they do and why? How does this relate to the Christian view of people?

### The Dreamtime – Australian Aboriginal (P28-29)

1. What existed in the beginning? Why is this appropriate or expected from such a culture?
2. Who and what are the eternal ancestors?
3. What are the Ungambikula and what did they do?
4. What is the Dreamtime?