

How did creation happen?

Key facts

- One purpose of myths is to help us understand some of our beliefs, practices and customs.
- In Ancient Greece, myths were an important part of everyday life. The earliest Greek myths were part of an oral tradition until they were written down by the poet Homer.
- Unlike other religions, there was not one person who founded Hinduism, nor was there a specific moment it began.
- In Hinduism, everything comes from a spirit called Brahman. There are many gods and goddesses, each one is a different way of showing Brahman.
- China is one of the world's most ancient civilisations. Chinese myths came mainly from three religions: Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism.
- In Chinese mythology, the universe is a vast, square piece of land. The four corners of the land are held up by a giant tortoise's feet.
- Dragons are an important part of Chinese mythology and symbolise good luck.
- The creation story shared by both Christians and Jews can be found in the book of Genesis. Genesis 1 tells of the story of the creation of the world and Genesis 2, tells us about the creation of the first humans: Adam and Eve.
- In ancient Egypt, myths have been recounted in the sacred hieroglyphic writings in the pyramids.
- Buddhists believe that when a person dies they are reborn in a different form. This form is dependent on how they have lived their lives.

Key people

Adam – The first man according to Genesis.

Brahma – The creator God in Hinduism

Eve – Created by God out of Adam's rib. His mate.

Homer – Greek poet from the 8th century BCE.

Key Vocabulary

Afterlife – Life after death.

Big Bang – How some people explain the way the universe began. It is the idea that the universe began as a single point, then expanded and stretched to grow as large as it is now.

Creation – The process of bringing something into existence.

Deity – Another word for a God or Goddess.

Evolution – The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the world.

Genesis – The first book in the Bible and Jewish Torah. It contains the creation story.

Interpretation – The way in which something is understood.

God – A superhuman being or spirit worshipped for having specific power(s).

Goddess – A female God.

Literal interpretation – when it happens word for word as it is written.

Liberal – Christians who do not take the Genesis creation story as word for word but look at the metaphor behind it.

Monastery – Place of worship in which monks live.

Myth – a traditional story, typically concerning the early history of people.

Mythology – A collection of myths, especially belonging to a particular religious or cultural tradition.

Silk road – Name of trade route from Asia, through India into Europe.

The Book of the Dead – describes how the world was created. Ancient Egyptian tradition.

Worldview – A particular philosophy of life or conception of the world.

Jesus – Founder of Christianity.

Shiva – The destroyer God in Hinduism.

Siddhartha Gautama – The founder of Buddhism

Vishnu – The preserver God in Hinduism

Zeus – God of the sky in Ancient Greek mythology.