

Name _____

Native American Myths (Before mid-1500s)

Notes

- Native Americans passed down stories through _____.
- While Native Americans did not have a sophisticated system of writing, many tribes used symbolic drawings known as _____ to communicate stories as well.
- Native American stories often shared the following traits:
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
- Native American myths often rely on _____ which are repeated imaginative patterns that can be characters, plots, or images.

“The World on the Turtle’s Back” (pp. 34-40)

1. Read Passage A, which starts at the beginning of the story and ends at Line 17. So far, how is this myth similar to other accounts of creation you’ve heard or read? How is it different?

2. A. What is the setting of this myth?
B. Who lives in the Sky World?
C. What is so special about the Sky Tree?

3. Read lines 29-49. Consider the role that “all the creatures” play in this myth. What does this suggest about the Iroquois’ attitude toward animals?

4. The twins are an interesting element of this story. List some of the traits of each twin below.

RIGHT-HANDED TWIN	LEFT-HANDED TWIN

Which twin is characterized as being more admirable? What does this tell you about the values of the Iroquois people?

5. Explain this sentence: "These two brothers, as they grew up, represented two ways of the world which are in all people" (38, line 113).

6. What explanation of how the moon is visible mainly at night is provided by the story?