

STARDUST TO STORYTELLERS: Mythology

UNIT 1: COSMOS MYTHS

Student Workbook

Name: _____

Date Started: _____

Essential Question:

What is the oldest question humans have ever asked, and how did they answer it?

UNIT VOCABULARY

Fill in the table as we learn each word during the unit.

Word	Definition (in my own words)	Picture or Example
Myth		
Creation		
Chaos		
Binary		
Deity		
Void		
Origin		

LESSON 1 WHAT IS A MYTH?

Read "A Note From the Author" by Virginia Hamilton before completing these activities.

BECAUSE / BUT / SO

Start with this sentence: 'People wrote myths.' Now expand it three ways:

People wrote myths because ...

People wrote myths, but ...

People wrote myths, so ...

MY DEFINITION OF A MYTH

In your own words, what is a myth? Write your definition below.

REFLECTION

What is one thing from the Author's Note that surprised you — or that you want to remember?

LESSON 2 GREEK CREATION MYTH

Read "The Coming of All Things" by Virginia Hamilton.

WORD MAP

WORD MAP: CHAOS	
Definition:	Sentence from the story:
Draw it:	My own sentence:

STORY STRUCTURE

Use this organizer to map what happens in "The Coming of All Things."

Beginning — What existed before creation? What happened first?
Middle — What is the main act of creation? Who does it?
End — What is created? What is the world like now?

LESSON 3

CAPITALIZATION

Re-read "The Coming of All Things" and look closely at which words are capitalized.

FIX THE CAPITALIZATION ERRORS

Each sentence below has one or more capitalization errors. Find and fix them by crossing out the wrong letter and writing the correct one above it.

1. in the beginning, there came nothing, alone.
2. earth brought forth heaven and the sea.
3. the youngest titan was kronos, and he was bold and wild.
4. great earth gave kronos a mighty sickle.
5. zeus would one day be father of all gods and all men.

THINK ABOUT IT

Virginia Hamilton capitalizes words like "Nothing" and "Earth" — even though they are not always proper nouns. Why do you think she makes that choice?

LESSON 4

THE BIG BANG AS A MYTH

Think about what you know about the Big Bang and what you've read in "The Coming of All Things."

MY POSITION

Is the Big Bang a myth? Circle your position:

YES, the Big Bang is a myth.
NO, the Big Bang is not a myth.

MY REASONS

Give at least two reasons for your position:

Reason 1:

Reason 2:

DIGGING DEEPER

Find one line from "The Coming of All Things" that the Big Bang reminds you of. Write the quote, then explain the connection.

Quote from the text:

My connection:

LESSON 5

THE GENESIS MYTH

Read "In the Beginning" by Virginia Hamilton.

SENTENCE EXPANSION: GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Expand the kernel sentence, "God created the world." using how, why, when, and where. You do not need to write in complete sentences.

How:

Why:

When:

Where:

GOD AS A CHARACTER

What do we learn about God from this story? Find a word or phrase from the text that shows us how God feels about creation.

LESSON 6

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS

A complete sentence needs a subject AND a predicate.

FIX THE FRAGMENTS

Each item below is a sentence fragment. First, write whether the subject (S) or predicate (P) is missing. Then rewrite it as a complete sentence.

1. "In the beginning of all things."

Missing: (S / P) — Complete sentence:

2. "Created the world in six days."

Missing: (S / P) — Complete sentence:

3. "Night and darkness and the deep."

Missing: (S / P) — Complete sentence:

4. "The great god Kronos."

Missing: (S / P) — Complete sentence:

5. "Swallowed his own children whole."

Missing: (S / P) — Complete sentence:

LESSON 7

SUMMARIZE

Re-read "In the Beginning" (the Genesis myth) before completing this page.

SUMMARY ORGANIZER

WHO is in this story?

WHAT happens?

WHY does it happen?

WHAT is the result / what is created?

MY SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Using your organizer above, write a 3–4 sentence summary of the Genesis myth in your own words.

LESSON 8 CHARACTERS: MAWU AND LISA

Read "Moon and Sun: Mawu-Lisa the Creators" by Virginia Hamilton.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS

MAWU (Moon)	LISA (Sun)
They are the god/goddess of...	They are the god/goddess of...
What they do:	What they do:
What they give to humans:	What they give to humans:

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you think Mawu and Lisa are equal? Find one line from the story that supports your answer.

LESSON 9

MAWU-LISA AS A NONBINARY MYTH

Read "A Creator Beyond Categories: Mawu-Lisa" from Queer Mythology by Guido A. Sanchez.

WHAT DOES BINARY MEAN?

Write your own definition of 'binary' in the box below. Then give one example of something that IS binary and one example of something that is NOT.

Something that IS binary:	Something that is NOT binary:

My definition of 'binary':

BEYOND THE BINARY

How does Mawu-Lisa go beyond the binary? Use words from the Sanchez text in your answer.

LESSON 10 COMPARING & CITING EVIDENCE

You will need both the Hamilton and Sanchez versions of the Mawu-Lisa myth for this lesson.

COMPARISON NOTES

Hamilton's Version	Sanchez's Version

OBSERVATIONS WITH EVIDENCE

Write 2–3 observations about how the two versions differ. After each observation, include a quote or paraphrase from one of the texts.

Observation 1:

Evidence (quote or paraphrase from the text):

Observation 2:

Evidence (quote or paraphrase from the text):

Observation 3:

Evidence (quote or paraphrase from the text):

LESSON 11

SINGLE PARAGRAPH OUTLINE

Thesis: The creation myth of the Fon people can be written in many ways.

SINGLE PARAGRAPH OUTLINE (SPO)

Use your observations from Lesson 10 to fill in this outline. Each box will become one sentence in your final paragraph.

Topic Sentence (Thesis):

Evidence / Detail 1:

Evidence / Detail 2:

Conclusion Sentence:

DIGGING DEEPER: WRITE THE FULL PARAGRAPH

Use your SPO above to write the complete paragraph.

LESSON 12 COSMOS MYTH CHART

You will use all four myths for this activity.

COMPARISON CHART: ALL FOUR CREATION MYTHS

Category	Moon and Sun (Hamilton)	In the Beginning (Hamilton)	The Coming of All Things (Hamilton)	Mawu-Lisa Creates Everything (Sanchez)
What existed before creation?				
Who/what does the creating?				
What is created first?				
Role of humans				
Values the myth holds				

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?

Looking at your completed chart, what do all four myths have in common? What surprised you most about the differences?

LESSON 13

ESSENTIAL QUESTION — THESIS STATEMENT

Essential Question: What is the oldest question humans have ever asked, and how did they answer it?

WRITE TWO THESIS ATTEMPTS

A good thesis makes a claim someone could disagree with. Try writing the thesis two different ways, then circle the stronger one.

Thesis Attempt 1:

Thesis Attempt 2:

MY BEST THESIS

Copy your strongest thesis here:

LESSON 14

SINGLE PARAGRAPH OUTLINE — ESSENTIAL QUESTION

Use your thesis from Lesson 13 and your Cosmos Chart from Lesson 12.

SINGLE PARAGRAPH OUTLINE (SPO)

Topic Sentence (your thesis from Lesson 13):

Evidence / Detail 1:

Evidence / Detail 2:

Conclusion Sentence:

DIGGING DEEPER: WRITE THE FULL PARAGRAPH

Large empty rectangular box for writing the full paragraph.

LESSON 15

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

Unscramble the words to make complete sentences. Add correct punctuation and capitalization!

UNSCRAMBLE THESE SENTENCES

1. began / it / nothing / from / all

2. the / moon / mawu / of / was / goddess

3. explained / world / myths / how / began / creation / the

4. twins / seven / mawu-lisa / had / of / pairs

5. around / serpent / coiled / world / the / aido-hwedo / the

MAKE YOUR OWN

Write a scrambled sentence from this unit for someone else to solve! Then write the answer below it.

Answer:

LESSON 16

BRAINSTORM 1 — MY CHARACTERS

Time to create your own myth! Start by imagining your characters.

CHARACTER BRAINSTORM

Answer the questions below to start building your characters. Messy is fine, these are just ideas!

Who or what does the creating in my myth?

Are there any helper characters? Who are they?

Is there a force of opposition or conflict? What is it?

What does my main creator want or care about?

DRAW YOUR CREATOR (optional)

Quick sketch of your main character:

LESSON 17

BRAINSTORM 2 — MY STORY

Use your characters from Lesson 16 and map out your creation myth.

STORY ORGANIZER

Beginning — What existed before creation? What happened first?

Middle — What is the main act of creation? Who does it?

End — What is created? What is the world like now?

WHAT DOES MY MYTH EXPLAIN?

Every creation myth explains something. What will yours explain? (Examples: why the sky is blue, where thunder comes from, why seasons change, how humans were made)

LESSON 18

DRAFTING — WRITE YOUR MYTH

Use your organizer from Lesson 17 as your guide. This is your **FIRST DRAFT**, get the story on the page!

HELPFUL SEQUENCE WORDS

In the beginning... Before anything existed... At first... Then... Next... Soon... After that... Finally... And so it was that...

MY CREATION MYTH — FIRST DRAFT

Title: _____

LESSON 19 EDITING

Use the rubric to check and improve your first draft.

REVISION CHECKLIST

Item to Check	✓ Done
My myth has a clear beginning, middle, and end.	
I used at least two sequence words.	
I included at least one vivid detail or description.	
My myth explains something about the world.	
Every sentence is complete (subject + predicate).	
I checked capitalization — beginning of sentences and proper nouns.	
I checked punctuation at the end of each sentence.	

ONE THING I IMPROVED

What is one thing you changed in your draft — and why did you change it?

LESSON 20

PUBLISH — MY FINAL MYTH

This is your finished, polished creation myth. Take your time and write your best!

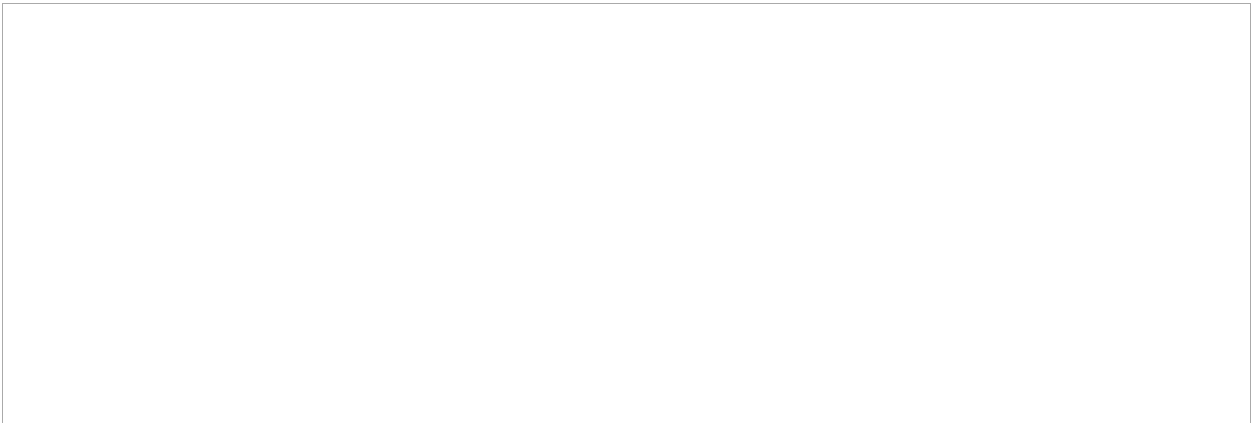
Title: _____

By _____



ILLUSTRATE YOUR MYTH (optional)

Draw a scene from your creation myth:



LOOKING BACK

Which creation myth from the unit was your favorite — and what did it teach you?