

Creation Stories Answer Key

Differences

Category	1 st Story: Genesis 1:1–2:4a	2 nd Story: Genesis 2:4b–25
Type of writing: Aside from being an account of God creating the world, what characteristics of this story might give you clues to its <i>genre</i> , or type of writing?	Many repetitive elements, such as “let there be,” “God saw that it was good,” and the numbering of the days. These elements are like the refrain of a song and give a poetic feel to this story.	A narrative or short story, with God, Adam, and Eve as the central characters.
The creation of humans: When are humans created, relative to the rest of creation (i.e., first, last, or at some other time)?	Humans are created last, on the sixth and final day of God’s work of Creation.	Adam is created first (in 2:7), then various animals and birds, and then Eve (in 2:21–23).
Time frame: How long does Creation take?	Creation takes six days, with a seventh day of rest.	No time frame is specified.
The action of God: How does God create the world?	Simply by speaking: “Let there be . . .”	By physically creating—for example, forming Adam “out of the dust of the ground” (2:7) and building Eve from Adam’s rib.
Another category: Write in another category of your choosing or that your teacher assigns. Possible categories include the tone of the writing, the way in which God is portrayed, or an important lesson that emerges from the story.	<i>Responses will vary based on the category students choose.</i> Sample category: This is a powerful and regal view of God—God simply speaks, and amazing things happen!	<i>Responses will vary based on the category students choose.</i> Sample category: This is a more down-to-earth (literally!) portrayal of God—God is actually laboring to create, in the same way people do.

Similarities

1. In both stories, God is the creator of everything—the source of all that exists.
2. In both stories, humans have some sort of privileged place. For example, in the first story, only on the sixth day (the day on which humans are created) does God declare that he “found it very good” (1:31, emphasis added). There is also the sense that God has saved the crown or pinnacle of his Creation til the end—saving the best for last. In the second story, Adam gets to name all animals, cattle and birds, which is a symbol of his role of caring for these creatures.
3. In both stories, God’s love and care for creation are evident.

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