



## Creation Stories

*Great for ages K-3*

Most cultures have ancient ideas about how the world came into being.

For example, in the Yup'ik masked dance performed in *People Like Me 2002: Face to Face*, Raven is alone and lonely in the Universe, and begins creating animals, things, and human beings. The people he creates, however, all speak languages he is not familiar with, so he tosses them to the far ends of the Earth. Finally, he creates people whose language he understands, and that is Yup'ik, and brings them home.

Here is a creation story from China:

In the beginning was a huge egg containing chaos and a mixture of yin-yang (female-male, cold-heat, dark-light, wet-dry, etc). Also within this yin-yang was Phan Ku who broke forth from the egg as a giant who separated the yin-yang into many opposites, including earth and sky. With a great chisel and a huge hammer, Phan Ku carved out the mountains, rivers, valleys, and oceans. He also made the sun, moon, and stars. When he died, after 18,000 years, it is said that the fleas in his hair became human beings. In summation, the Chinese say that everything that is, is Phan Ku and everything that Phan Ku is, is yin-yang.



A Romanian creation story says that God made Heaven, and then, after measuring the space underneath with a ball of thread, he began to form the earth. A mole asked to help, and God gave him the thread to hold while he wove the patterns of the earth. Sometimes the mole would let out too much thread, and finally the earth grew too large for the space under heaven. The mole was so upset that he hid under the earth. God sent the bee to look for him; he wanted the mole's advice on what to do about the mistake. The bee found the mole and the mole just laughed at the idea of advising God. The bee, however, hid in a flower and overheard the mole mumbling to himself about what he would do if he were God. 'I would squeeze the earth,' he said. 'That would make mountains and valleys it is true, but it would make the earth smaller at the same time.' When the bee heard this, he went directly to God and told him. God did what the mole had said, and everything fit fine.

Use your imagination to make up your own creation story. It doesn't have to be creation of the world, but could be how the grass learned to grow, how the sidewalk was created, how the elephant got her trunk, why spiders have eight legs, or how the computer came into being.

Get in groups of two or three, and work together to tell the story. One of you tells the story with words, and the other ones act it out! Then share your stories with the rest of your class.

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