

The Sacred Earth and the Power of Storytelling (p. 12)

1. How was the earth viewed by most Native American cultures?
2. What does sacred mean? (Try to figure it out with context clues.)
3. Explain the Cycle of Life according to Native Americans. Be sure to include all of the things that are part of this process.
4. How did Native Americans feel about spirits?
5. What is the purpose of their stories and songs?
6. How did Native Americans feel about people owning land?
7. How did this view of land ownership differ from the views of European settlers?
8. How did the settlers overrule the Native Americans, as far as land ownership goes?
9. What is the Bering Strait?
10. Why were there so many different types of stories and mythology?
11. How were sacred stories "used"?
12. What was the purpose of rituals?

Native American Mythology (p. 20-21)

13. What is oral literature?
14. Why were these stories important?
15. What is a myth?
16. What is the difference between a creation myth and an origin myth?
17. Read the myth on page 20. (In blue italics). According to this myth, how were lakes made? How was red clay created?
18. What is an archetype?
19. Besides a trickster, what is a common archetype often appearing in Native American stories?
20. What is a trickster?
21. Often in Native American myths, tricksters are _____ personified as humans.
22. According to myths, what actions was coyote guilty of?
23. What are the two functions of myths that several tribes have in common?
24. Define totem. Explain how they are used in Native American cultures?
25. Name three additional reasons that Native Americans continue to use myths in their culture?