CREATION MYTHS – A COMPARISON

- Zoroastrianism, Norse, Egyptian, Japanese, Hindu, Babylonian, Aztec, Chinese, Judeo-Christian-Islamic, Greek

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| **Similarities** | **Differences** |
| - men from mud, natural elements  - natural elements (air, ice…) made into gods or parts of them  - importance of rain  - good and evil  - eating children?  - brothers/sisters  - initially only a few beings  - revenge/conflict/violence  - pregnancy – odd circumstances  - multiple gods | - Yin and Yang – two forces making earth and sky  - cosmic eggs?  - names of gods/goddesses  - coughing up kids/elements (sky, earth)  - gods become elements  - multi-limbed gods – Hindu  - very specific about how long earth lasts  - humans created to serve gods  - God created earth in 6 days  - eternal sin  - castration - Cronus |

**What can we learn?**

- many creation myths use natural elements to explain creation

- very creative – seems odd but must use perspective

- early people sought to explain natural phenomenon using elaborate stories

- myths help us to learn about what early civilizations valued (ex. peace vs. conflict…)