

Introduction:

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in Canada in the early sixteenth century, numerous indigenous cultures existed and traced their roots in North America back for thousands of years. They had developed distinct cultures and societies that had developed oral histories of their peoples. Part of their oral histories and traditions was an account of their origins, or creation accounts. These accounts provide us with a means of understanding how they viewed the world, where they came from, the role they were to play in the world and provided a sense of purpose for their culture.

In class we looked at the creation accounts of several different indigenous cultures. While it is important to understand that there was not one monolithic culture in the Americas, by identifying similarities and differences in the accounts, by seeking to understand the purpose behind them, we can seek to understand the worldview of the indigenous cultures that existed prior to European arrival and subsequent colonization. In doing so, we provide context for the interactions between indigenous peoples and Europeans, context that may help us to better understand how and why events occurred the way they did throughout Canadian history.

Assignment:

1. Using what you've learned in class, write a summary explaining what you believe was the worldview held by pre-colonial indigenous cultures. Try to identify positive elements as well as negative elements that help you to understand how they viewed the world around them, and what motivated their thoughts and actions.
2. In addition, attach the summary of creation accounts that you made while watching the videos.

Resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qn0zJ1QH2Zc> – Cree Creation Account

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Etn92Ms8plo> – Ojibway Creation Account

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D0elAQYLdfc> – Haudenosaunee Creation Account

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D53yGnJwjT0> – Hopi Creation Account

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfcznspMFeA> – Cherokee Creation Account

** This assignment is a summative assessment, and as such is for marks and will count towards your final grade and overall success in this course. **

Rubric:

1pt for each culture referenced (maximum of five points)

2pts for addressing each of the following: (maximum of ten points)

- Origins
- Morality
- Relationship with nature
- Community
- Purpose

5pts for the overall summary and clear articulation of the world view you discerned.

Total: _____ / 20 pts