

Early Native American Literature Test Study Guide

This test (Wednesday, 5 September) covers “The World on the Turtle’s Back,” “Coyote and Buffalo,” and “Coyote and Fox and Whale.”

Be familiar with the following literary terms:

- creation myth (p. 30)
- trickster tale (p. 44)
- personification

Be familiar with the following characters:

From “The World on the Turtle’s Back”:

- the man and the woman in the sky world
- the left-handed and right-handed twins (what each twin created)

From the Coyote stories:

- coyote, buffalo, old woman
- coyote, fox, whale, fox’s wife, mouse

Be prepared to discuss Native American explanations for natural occurrences.

Be prepared to discuss how these three stories demonstrate the close relationship between Native Americans and their natural surroundings.

From “The World on the Turtle’s Back”:

What role do the gods play in creating the sky world?

Which god accidentally falls out of the sky?

How does the woman create land on the turtle's back?

What happens when the twins are born?

How are the twins different from each other?

What happens to the twins in the end?

From the Coyote stories:

Why are there no buffalo along the Columbia River?

What did fox's wife do to him?

Why do whales not live in fresh water according to the story?

Why does the story say Kettle Falls is so powerful?