

Mythology Study Guide for Chapter 8 and Chapter 9

Chapter 8: North American: Zuni, Hopi, and Navajo; and from the Iroquois League

pp. 97-129

In what way are the North American myths a “new kind of mythological story”?

How do they differ from the Judaeo-Christian tradition?

How does the role of humanity differ?

What is the disadvantage of a written version of a myth in respect to an oral one?

Identify a common motif in North American creation myths.

Why is Ruth Benedict’s theory of cultural relativism important?

Understand how any version of a myth represents some editing/refining process.

What are petroglyphs? What is their significance?

How are the Zuni, Hopi, and Navajo creation myths similar?

Why did European settlers consider Iroquois men lazy? What was the social role of Iroquois women?

Chapter 9: Africa: Uganda and Nigeria, pp. 121-129

According to one “likely theory,” where did the first humans emerge?

What is a “how and why” tale? How do these myths fit this definition?

What widespread belief do African cultures share with regard to a supreme being?

Explain “the message that failed” theme and the role of the trickster.

Who is Kintu?