

Native American and Early Explorer Literature  
Study Guide

**Notes**

1. What are the traditional forms of Native American stories? **Warning Tales, Cultural Hero Stories, Trickster Tales, Origin Myths**
2. What is a common motif in cultural hero tales? **The Despised Orphan**
3. Because Native American tales were passed down through oral tradition, what was used to help remember these tales? **Pictographs**
4. “The Girl Who Was Not Satisfied With Simple Things” is classified as what kind of story? **Warning tale**
5. “The World on the Turtle’s Back” is an origin myth that explains the creation of what things? **The Earth, humans, plants, animals, circle of life, etc.**

**Native American Stories**

6. “The Girl Who Was Not Satisfied with Simple Things” centers on what? **A girl who doesn’t accept simple things and has to face the consequences**
7. In “The Girl Who Was Not Satisfied with Simple Things”, the girl went off with a strange man. What realization did she make later that night? **He was a serpent and she should have listened to her mother**
8. In “The Girl Who Was Not Satisfied with Simple Things”, who helped save the girl? **Her grandfather**
9. In “The Girl Who Was Not Satisfied with Simple Things”, what did Heno ask of the girl after rescuing her? **He asked her to help him rid the world of evil creatures**
10. In “The World on the Turtle’s Back”, who was responsible for the creation of the world? **The woman from the Sky World who pulled roots from the Great Tree**
11. In “The World on the Turtle’s Back”, why were the twins fighting before they were even born? **They fought over how to be born**
12. Based on “The World on the Turtle’s Back”, what did the Iroquois value? **Balance**
13. In “The World on the Turtle’s Back”, why did the left-handed twin only choose a stick to fight his brother? **He accepted his destiny to lose to his brother**
14. In “The World on the Turtle’s Back”, after his death, what was the left-handed twin’s role in the universe? **He controls darkness and the underworld**
15. A myth often explains the origin of something that is important to a group of people. What is the purpose of “The World on the Turtle’s Back”? **It explains the origin of Earth and the origin of some of their important rituals**
16. In *The Walam Olum*, what was the unique way in which the story was told? **Pictographs**
17. Compare the pictographs of the evil manito and the evil magician in *The Walam Olum*. How does the reader know they might be the same creature? **N/A**
18. In “The Origin of Stories”, the main character, Gaqka, was considered the cultural hero and a motif. What motif did he represent? **Despised orphan**
19. In “The Origin of Stories”, which of the following elements did Gaqka bring back to his tribe? **He brought the tradition of storytelling, trophies to remember the stories, and gifts for the storyteller**

In “The Origin of Stories”, Gaqka is considered a cultural hero. Some try to argue that he could also be considered an epic hero. Answer the following questions based on that idea and on the chart you completed for this story.

20. One characteristic an epic hero needs is to be of noble birth. Does Gaqka fit this trait? Explain. **Maybe; his parents are never discussed in the story**
21. Another characteristic of an epic hero is that the hero must perform a courageous deed. What courageous deeds were performed by Gaqka? **He went back to a village of people who despised him**
22. A third characteristic of an epic hero is that he must change by the end of the epic. How did Gaqka change? **He transformed from the despised orphan into a cultural hero**
23. Another characteristic of an epic hero is that he is tested to prove his worthiness. What were Gaqka’s tests? **He was tested to see if he was worthy to receive the stories and tested by having to return to his village**
24. What rituals are a part of Laguna funeral ceremonies? **Painted face, feather in hair, red blanket, candles, medicine bags, corn meal, pollen, (holy) water**
25. What request does Leon make of Father Paul after the traditional Laguna ceremony? **He asked Father Paul to sprinkle holy water on the grave**
26. What internal conflict did Father Paul face? **He was torn between honoring Leon’s request or strictly adhering to his own religious practices**
27. What did Father Paul decide to do? **He sprinkled holy water**
28. What do Leon and Ken ask Teofilo to do after they perform their traditional ceremonies? **They ask him to send rain clouds**

### Early Explorers

29. Why did Christopher Columbus use rich and descriptive sensory details to describe what he had discovered? **He wanted to show the king and queen the value of the items he discovered**
30. “I suffered nothing to be touched, and went with my captains and some of the crew to view the country.” Based on this sentence from the reading, what does the word *suffered* mean? **Permitted, allowed**
31. What was the primary purpose of Columbus’s journal? **To inform the king and queen and to persuade them to let him continue his explorations**
32. In addition to converting them to Christianity, what else did Columbus think would be a good idea with the Natives? **They would make good servants**
33. As soon as Cabeza de Vaca found a Native village, what did he do? **He kidnapped the women, children, and a chief**
34. What seemed to happen every day while Cabeza de Vaca was exploring? **He was attacked by the Seminoles**
35. Compare and contrast the journals of Christopher Columbus and Cabeza de Vaca. What were some of the similar approaches that they took in writing their journals? What differences were there in the ways they approached the natives? What biases did each of them show regarding the Native Americans? **They both described the events that happened, especially their interactions with the Natives. Columbus seemed to be more respectful, but both viewed the Natives as inferior.**
36. What criticisms did John Smith have about President Ratcliffe and his sidekick, Martin? **They were poor leaders and couldn’t make decisions**

37. Of all the colonists who founded Jamestown, who did Smith praise above all others?  
**Himself**
38. What did Smith teach the Algonquins through his use of the compass? **The roundness of the Earth; all about the sun, moon, and stars; the different countries and people in them**
39. Which events did John Smith write about inaccurately? **Pocahontas; the amount of time with the Algonquins**
40. What phrases from the reading show Smith's bias against the Algonquins? **The phrases that include biased words like "savages" and "barbarians"**