

Read each myth or legend carefully. Use details from the passage to answer the questions in complete sentences.

The Separation of Sky and Earth



Long ago, in the traditions of the Māori people of New Zealand, the world was different. There were only Ranginui, the Sky Father, and Papatūānuku, the Earth Mother. They were locked in a tight embrace, and all their children lived in darkness between them.

Their many children, including Tāne Mahuta (god of forests) and Tangaroa (god of the sea), longed for light and space. They felt squashed and sad. After much discussion, the children decided they must separate their parents. Tāne Mahuta, with his strong legs, pushed with all his might. He pressed his back against Papatūānuku and pushed his feet against Ranginui.



Slowly, with great effort, Ranginui and Papatūānuku were pushed apart. Light flooded into the world, creating the space for forests, oceans, and all life to thrive. This is how the Māori explain the creation of the sky, the earth, and the world we see today. The tears of Ranginui become the rain, and the mists rising from Papatūānuku are her sighs of longing.



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Who are the two main parent figures in this Māori creation myth?

- (A) Ranginui, the Sky Father, and Papatūānuku, the Earth Mother
- (B) Odin, the All-Father, and Frigg, his wife



- C Geb, the Earth god, and Nut, the Sky goddess
- D Zeus, king of the gods, and Hera, his queen

(2) In this myth, the children of Ranginui and Papatūānuku lived in darkness and longed for

_____ .

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) What does the word 'embrace' mean as it is used in the story?

- A a tight hug or hold
- B a long journey
- C a difficult problem
- D a secret meeting

(4) Why did the children decide to separate their parents, Ranginui and Papatūānuku? What does this tell us about their desire for a different world?

(5) What do you think this myth was trying to explain or teach? How does its message connect to something in real life today?



