Stories reveal a lot about cultures, beliefs, and who we are in general. There are many types of stories. Do you recognize any of the examples to the right?

**MYTHS:** sacred stories that sometime explain the origins of a culture. Examples may include African, Native American, or Greek myths.

**WHY STORIES:** stories that explain why things happened or exist. An example would be Creation Stories—stories that explain how the earth, man, and animals came to be.

**TALL TALES:** fictional stories, presented as true. These tales are highly imaginative, unusual, and hard to believe. An example would be *Jack and the Beanstalk*.

**TRICKSTER TALES:** a tale in which the main character, such as Brer Rabbit, constantly tries to outsmart or outwit other characters. Some trickster tales are also animal tales.

**ORAL HISTORY NARRATIVES:** the stories of ordinary people, who tell of their life experiences. Think of someone in your family or community, who tells great stories.

If you are interested in learning more about stories, visit: [http://www.louisianavoices.org Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories](http://www.louisianavoices.org Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories).
Discuss Tall Tales by exploring the following topics:

* Who tells them?
* Why do students think people tell them?
* Whether the students know any themselves.
* What examples have they heard or read elsewhere?

Ask whether students know any Tall Tales. They may share their stories in small groups, or as a class. They might also collect them in a fieldwork project.

TEST YOUR STUDENTS’ CREATIVITY!

Have students write their own Creation Stories about the origin of earth, man, animals, weather, etc. inspired by their research on Creation Stories. This may be done as a group activity or individually. Then have everyone share their stories.

If you are interested in exploring more lesson activities about stories and other oral traditions, please visit: http://www.louisianavoices.org Unit V Oral Traditions: Swapping Stories.