Teacher's notes and answer key

Yemoja – from River Goddess to Goddess of the Sea

Subjects: English · Religious Studies · History | recommended from age 14 (B1) | Video: 9:17 min

Answers B

1. Deities of the Yoruba religion who mediate between the creator god Olodumare and humans; Yemoja is one of the "Seven Powers", the most important orishas, mother of rivers and protector of mothers and children.

2. A river, the Ogun, and many more orishas (up to fourteen), including Shango, Ogun and Oya.

3. They secured farming, drinking water and trade routes for whole kingdoms such as Oyo and Egba.

4. Through the transatlantic slave trade from the 16th century; those taken brought their faith and often practised it disguised behind Catholic saints.

5. Cuba: Yemayá, identified with the Virgin of Regla (7 September). Brazil: Iemanjá, festival on 2 February with people in white on the beaches offering flowers, mirrors, perfume and small boats.

Answer C

Correct numbers from top to bottom: 4 – 7 – 1 – 6 – 2 – 8 – 3 – 5

Notes on D and E

E: Nigeria – Yemoja, river goddess, offerings at the Ogun (watermelon, honey, white cloth); Cuba – Yemayá, sea goddess, Virgin of Regla; Brazil – Iemanjá, festival on 2 February; colours blue and white, symbols fan and mirror.

D: handle the discussion with care; do not go into the origin episode (see content note).

Content note and age

Recommended from age 14. IMPORTANT: the video tells how Yemoja is pursued and raped by her own son. It is not shown explicitly but clearly stated. Please preview the video and prepare the class; consider starting from the transformation scene.

Sources of the retelling: Yoruba tradition (recorded among others by Samuel Johnson, early 20th century) and today's diaspora religions.

The narrator's voice and the illustrations in the video are AI-generated; the script follows the established tradition. You are welcome to copy and share this worksheet for classroom use.

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