Nüwa – the Goddess Who Mended the Sky

Subjects: English · Religious Studies · Geography | recommended from age 11 (A2/B1) | Video: 9:00 min



Watch the video
youtu.be/3XZNdeRXUpA

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

A · Before watching

1. What would have to happen for “the sky to fall in”? What does this saying mean today?

B · While watching

1. What made one of the pillars of heaven collapse?

2. Which disasters followed the tear in the sky?

3. What did Nüwa use to mend the sky – and what do the five colours stand for?

4. What did Nüwa use as new pillars for the sky?

5. According to the myth, what trace has the disaster left until today?

Useful words

pillar	Säule	turtle	Schildkröte
to collapse	einstürzen	flood	Flut
tear / crack	Riss	ash	Asche
to melt	schmelzen	to repair	reparieren

C · Put the story in order

Number the events from 1 to 8 in the order they happen in the video.

	Nüwa melts stones of five colours.
	She defeats a black dragon.
	Gong Gong loses a struggle for power over the world.
	She props up the sky with a giant turtle's legs.
	He rams Mount Buzhou, and a pillar of heaven collapses.
	She holds back the floods with reed ash.
	The sky tears open; fires and floods break out.
	She seals the tear in the sky.

D · Think and discuss

1. “A world doesn't last on its own – it must be protected and repaired.” Where is this true today?

2. Nüwa is both creator and rescuer. Why might this combination make her so important?

E · Nüwa's four tasks

Complete the table with information from the video.

	What did Nüwa do?	With what?
Against the fire from the tear		
Against the tilting sky		
Against the black dragon		
Against the floods		

F · Get creative

1. In your exercise book, write the report of a survivor who watched Nüwa at work (8–10 sentences).