



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Curriculum Capture for Year 5 Religious Education: Creation and Science: Conflicting or Complementary?

Key Knowledge and Beliefs

How does the Bible tell us that the Earth was created?

The Book of Genesis opens with the story of Creation, with God, a spirit hovering over an empty, watery void creating the world by speaking into darkness and calling into being light, sky, land, vegetation and living creatures over the course of six days. This text is sacred to three religions: Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

How do scientists believe that the Earth was created?

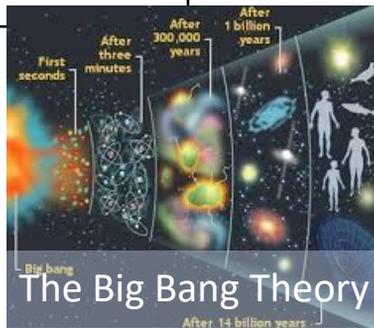
Scientists use Cosmology to study the origins of the universe, an event which they describe using the Big Bang Theory. They believe that the universe was created when a hot, dense singularity expanded faster than the speed of light and then cooled. The theory of Evolution is used to describe how life on Earth developed.

What are the views of Christians who are scientists about creation?

Some people say that the science and the belief in creation are either in conflict or complementary. However, there are many Christians who are scientists, in the fields of cosmology, biology and other disciplines, and find no contradiction between their faith and their science. They see the God of Genesis as giving humans the freedom to explore creation and humanity's place within it. Scientists, such as the physicist Jennifer Wiseman claim that science does not require belief in God, but it does vastly enrich the sense of a purposeful creation.

What does the creation story say about God and the way in which people should live?

For Christians this Creation account is an important part of the 'big story' of the Bible — that it sets up the context in which human life exists, as part of an extraordinary Creation and in relationship with (and in the image of) an extraordinary Creator God. This suffuses the universe and life with goodness and with purpose, as far as Christians are concerned, and also sets up the reason why God is concerned to bring healing and salvation to Creation through Jesus.



Key Vocabulary

Bible	The Christian holy book. Contains two main parts – the Old Testament and the New Testament.
Genesis	The first book of the Old Testament, which tells the story of the creation.
Creation (religious)	The act of bringing the world into existence from nothing.
Science	Knowledge about the world that is based on facts learned through experimentation and observation.
Conflict	A serious difference between two or more beliefs.
Complementary	Things that may be different from each other but make a good combination.
Cosmology	The study of the structure and changes in the present universe or the study of the universe and humanity's place.
Evolution	The theory that all the kinds of living things that exist today developed from earlier types.
Astrophysics	The study of how stars and planets work and how we can learn about them.

Useful texts and links:

- The Creation Story. Genesis 1:1-2:3 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+1%3A1-2%3A3&version=NIV>
- Psalm 8 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Psalm+8&version=NIV>
- Jennifer Wiseman talking about her beliefs: www.faradayschools.com/primary/different-types-of-explanation/