

Overview and Prior Learning (CORE)

Christians believe that God the Creator cares for the creation, including human beings. As human beings are part of God's good creation, they do their best when they listen to God. The Bible tells a story (in Genesis 3) about how humans spoiled their friendship with God. This is sometimes known as "The Fall". This means that humans cannot get close to God without God's help. The Bible shows that God wants to help people be close to him—he keeps his relationship with them, gives them guidelines on good ways to live, such as the Ten Commandments, and offers forgiveness even when they keep on falling short. Christians show that they want to be close to God too, through obedience and worship, which includes saying sorry for falling short. Scientists believe that the beginnings of the universe and the beginnings of human life happened in two ways. The universe is a result of the "big bang" theory where, following an explosion, tiny particles collected matter forming planets and other heavenly bodies and the beginning of life was a result of evolution where different species adapt and change over time. There is much debate and some controversy around the relationship between the accounts of Christians and Scientists.

Creation: Conflicting or Complementary?

What should we know?

That there is a great deal of debate and some controversy around the relationship between the accounts of creation in Genesis and scientific accounts.

That the interpretation of Genesis and scientific texts about the Big Bang theory cause a huge deal of debate. Not all Christians interpret Genesis in the same way and some of the scientific texts contradict each other.

That there are many scientists throughout history and living today that are Christians.

That the discoveries of science make Christians wonder even more about the power and majesty of the Creator.



What should we be able to do?

- Explain why the Creation story is important to Christians and why it is interpreted in different ways.
- Suggest what Genesis 1 might mean and compare our ideas with Christian interpretations.
- Explain how Genesis 1 relates to the Christian belief of God as Creator.
- Explain why many Christians find that Science and faith go together.
- Locate evidence in Biblical and scientific texts to support our ideas.
- Suggest how the Genesis story complements and is in conflict with a Scientific account.

What words should we understand and be able to use?

Creation –The creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God. (religious)

Conflict—A serious disagreement or argument.

Complement—A thing that contributes extra features to something else in such a way to improve it.

Evolution—The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

Christian—A person who has received Christian baptism or is a believer in Christianity.

Cosmology—The science of the origin of the universe, dominated by the Big Bang theory.

Overview and Prior Learning (DIGGING DEEPER)

Genesis 1 and Psalm 8 are texts that explore God and human nature. It is a common view that the religious and scientific accounts of creation are conflicting. This depends on how Genesis 1 is interpreted. Some Christians believe the text is literally true—the Earth is only a few thousand years old, God made it in 6 days of 24 hours. This view holds that Scientific accounts must be incorrect because you cannot hold both conflicting views. However, many Christians reject the idea that the purpose of Genesis 1 is to give a scientific description at all. Some see it as poetic, needing different methods of interpretation. Some see it as communicating a message about the nature of God as Creator. There are also some Christians who see it as complementary to scientific accounts. Their view is that Science addresses the “how” questions about the universe and it’s mechanisms whereas religion, in this case, Christian belief in a Creator addresses the “why” questions: Why is there a universe at all? Do humans matter?

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What should we be able to do?

- Explain what Psalm 8 has to say about God as Creator and the place of humans in creation.
- Make connections between Psalm 8 and God.
- Explain and understand why some Christians find that faith and science are compatible.
- Suggest ways in which humans have a responsibility to the Earth.
- Suggest how well humans do take responsibility for the Earth, considering religious and non-religious views.

