

# Religious Education Knowledge Organiser – Year 6



## Creation and the Fall

## Creation and Science: Conflicting or Complementary?

### Key Vocabulary

<b>conflicting</b>	When two or more ideas are against each other and are not compatible with one another.
<b>complementary</b>	When two or more ideas can work together.
<b>Genesis 1</b>	The first chapter of the first book in the Bible which describes.
<b>cosmology</b>	The scientific concept that the universe emerged from a singularity through the Big Bang.
<b>evolution</b>	The theory that all the kinds of living things that exist today developed from earlier types. The differences between them resulted from changes that happened over many years.
<b>genre</b>	A specific type or style of music, film, or writing.

### Golden Nuggets

<p><i>What scientific beliefs are there about creation?</i></p> <p>Cosmology is the theory that the universe began with the 'Big Bang'. Why there is 'something rather than nothing' is a mystery physics doesn't answer but one <b>theory</b> is that the universe emerged from a singularity. This theory makes the most sense of our observations but no one claims it is a complete and perfect theory. <b>Evolution</b> suggests that the 'Goldilocks effect' created the perfect opportunity for life to develop on earth and that about three and a half billion years ago, the first self-replicating cells emerged. The theory suggests that somehow changes happened over time to these first living cells and eventually complex life developed. The origin of life is still not well understood.</p>
<p><i>How do Christians about the text of Genesis 1?</i></p> <p>Bible texts are not all of one <b>genre</b>. They include <b>biography, poetry and wisdom</b>. Different Christians have <b>different beliefs</b> about the genre of text that Genesis 1 is. Some believe it should be read literally as an account of creation whilst others argue it is to be read as poetry and meaning drawn out of it.</p>
<p><i>Can science and faith be reconciled?</i></p> <p>While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously, the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally, as they would a science textbook. Most Christians believe that the purpose of religious truth is not to convey scientific information but to transform hearts. Many Christians believe that the 'truths' of the Bible and discoveries of modern science can coexist.</p>
<p><i>Do I believe that Genesis 1 and scientific discoveries are complementary or conflicting?</i></p> <p>The beliefs that people hold about Genesis 1 and scientific views sit along a <b>broad spectrum</b>. Some people believe that science and faith <b>cannot coexist</b> whilst others believe they can be <b>completely complementary</b>. What do you believe? What justifications do you have for these beliefs?</p>

### Big Story of the Bible

Creation	God creates a perfect world where he is in a perfect relationship with humanity.
The Fall	Adam and Even don't follow God's rules and they spoil their friendship with God. This story is also found in Genesis.
Patriarchs	Several men in one family line lead God's people. The family end up in Egypt and become slaves to the Egyptians.
Exodus	Moses becomes the leader of God's people and helps them escape from slavery in Egypt.
Conquest	God's people conquer the Promised Land called Israel and have a home and nation of their own. The people are called 'Israelites' or sometimes 'Jews'.
Judges	God appoints judges to lead His people.
Kings and Prophets	God's people aren't happy with having Judges and ask for a King like the other countries. God lets them have a king. God wants to fix his friendship with humans so he asks prophets to tell the people the right thing to do. People continue to disobey. The Israelites go through phases of good and bad leadership from their Kings. The Kingdom of Israel is then conquered by different empires.
Silence	Prophets foretell of a coming king who will rescue the Israelites from being under the rule of other kingdoms. There is a period where nothing new is heard from God and the people wait for hundreds of years for this coming Messiah who will come to save them.
Incarnation	God's people still aren't doing the right thing so God comes as Jesus to make it better for them. God the Son is incarnated and lives on Earth as a human! Some people believe that Jesus is the Messiah they have been waiting for to rescue them. Many of the people don't understand that Jesus was going to be 'King of their hearts' rather than a military ruler and King of a country. They are angry when Jesus doesn't make plans to overthrow the Romans who are currently ruling them.
Salvation	Jesus dies on the cross as a punishment for everything his people do wrong. His people can be friends with God again now that Jesus has brought them 'Salvation'.
Kingdom of God	Jesus' friends and followers tell the world about the Good News of Jesus. Jesus goes to heaven but sends the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and guide them.
New Creation	Christians believe that Jesus will come again and bring a new Heaven and Earth where everything will be perfect again. This is in the book of Revelation.



### Cosmology

According to the Standard Model, the Universe began almost 14 billion years ago. The theory works back in time from our current observations and understanding of the universe. It all started with the Big Bang. This describes the origin of matter, energy, space and time - the early moments of the universe and its subsequent development.

Why there is something rather than nothing is a mystery that our physics cannot answer. One theory is that our universe emerged from a singularity, an infinitely hot and infinitely dense point which is impossible to picture.

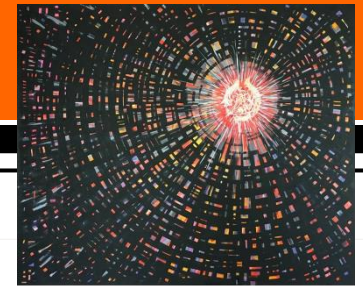
From this the universe expanded faster than the speed of light. For the first 10<sup>-4</sup> second there was only energy. As it expanded and cooled, elementary particles such as quarks and electrons condensed. After one millionth of a second, protons and neutrons formed out of quarks. Three minutes later simple atomic nuclei developed. It was 300,000 years before these could capture electrons and form the first atoms. At this time light filled the whole of space.

As space expanded gravity began to pull matter together. When these masses became big enough, galaxies of stars formed. Fusion reactions began, igniting stars and forming heavier elements. When stars exploded, the elements scattered. Eventually they condensed in solar systems forming new stars and planets. We are all quite literally made of star dust!

The Big Bang theory makes more sense of our observations and understanding of physical laws than any other. No one claims it is a complete or final story. New discoveries are prompting new ideas such as Dark Matter, Dark Energy and Superstring theories. There is more to learn!



'Big Bang' by Maria Lurescia



'Big Bang' by Anthony Smith

### Key Ideas

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Science and Religion: Conflicting or Complementary?

**An Open Letter from 13,000 priests and vicars concerning religion and science:**

While virtually all Christians take the Bible seriously the overwhelming majority do not read the Bible literally as they would a science textbook. Religious truth is of a different order from scientific but to transform hearts truth its purpose is not to convey scientific information. We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions, believe that the timeless truths of the Bible and the discoveries of modern science may comfortably coexist. We believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. We ask that science remain science and that religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary forms of truth.

The Clergy Letter Project †

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Science and Religion: Conflicting or Complementary?

**The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church agree about faith and science:**

In 2010 the Church of England agreed to promote a better understanding of how science and belief in God are not in conflict. Dr Peter Capon said: "Many Christians are scientists. Many people have a faith and accept the findings of modern science. Many look for the answer to life's questions in both religion and science finding them complementary worldviews which answer different sorts of questions. The majority of Christians accept evolution and many scientists find that the evolutionary process and the beauty of creation inspire faith."

"When we read in Genesis the account of Creation, we risk imagining that God was a magician, with such a magic wand as to be able to do everything. However, it was not like that. He created beings and left them to develop according to the internal laws that He gave each one, so that they would develop, and reach their fullness. The beginning of the world comes directly from God who creates out of love. The Big Bang which today is described as the origin of the world, does not contradict the divine act of creation, it requires it. Evolution in nature is not opposed to the idea of Creation because evolution is based on the creation of beings that evolve."

Pope Francis

Which piece of art work do you appreciate most? Why?

'Creation' by Caroline Street

