

What should I already know?

**Make sense of belief:**

- Place the concepts of God and Creation on a timeline of the Bible's 'big story'
- Make clear links between Genesis 1 and what Christians believe about God and Creation
- Recognise that the story of 'the Fall' in Genesis 3 gives an explanation of why things go wrong in the world.

**Understand the impact:**

- Describe what Christians do because they believe God is Creator (e.g. follow God, wonder at how amazing God's creation is; care for the Earth – some specific ways)
- Describe how and why Christians might pray to God, say sorry and ask for forgiveness.

**Make connections:**

- Ask questions and suggest answers about what might be important in the Creation story for Christians and for non-Christians living today.

*Core Learning –*

*~ God the Creator cares for the creation, including human beings.  
 ~ As human beings are part of God's good creation, they do best when they listen to God.  
 ~ The Bible shows that God wants to help people to be close to him - he keeps his relationship with them, gives them guidelines on good ways to live (such as the Ten Commandments).  
 ~ [Building block from EYFS: Christians believe God made our wonderful world and so we should look after it.]*

**Questions:**

- How can we hold differing views while having a ... relationship?*
- How can we disagree respectfully?*
- How can we find common ground?*
- What does the literal view of the creation story tell us about how we should care for the earth and everything in it?*
- What does the scientific view tell us about this?*

## U2.2 Creation and Science: Conflict or complementary?

What I will learn by the end of the unit

- Outline the importance of Creation on the timeline of the 'Big Story' of the Bible.
- Identify what type of text some Christians say Genesis 1 is, and its purpose.
- Taking account of the context, suggest what Genesis might mean, and compare ideas with ways in which Christians interpret it, showing awareness of different interpretations.
- Make clear connections between Genesis 1 and Christian belief about God as Creator.
- Show understanding of why many Christians find science and faith go together.
- Identify key ideas arising from their study of Genesis 1 and comment on how far these are helpful or inspiring, justifying their responses.
- Weigh up how far the Genesis 1 creation narrative is in conflict, or is complementary, with a scientific account.

By the end of the key stage you will be able to:

- Identify and explain the core beliefs and concepts studied, using examples from texts/sources of authority in religions
- Describe examples of ways in which people use texts/sources of authority to make sense of core beliefs and concepts
- Taking account of the context(s), suggest meanings for texts/ sources of authority studied, comparing their ideas with ways in which believers interpret them, showing awareness of different interpretations. • **Make clear connections between what people believe and how they live, individually and in communities** • **Using evidence and examples, show how and why people put their beliefs into practice in different ways, e.g. in different communities, denominations or cultures**
- **Make connections between the beliefs and practices studied, evaluating and explaining their importance to different people (e.g. believers and atheists)** • **Reflect on and articulate lessons people might gain from the beliefs/practices studied, including their own responses, recognising that others may think differently** • **Consider and weigh up how ideas studied in this unit relate to their own experiences and experiences of the world today, developing insights of their own and giving good reasons for the views they have and the connections they make** • **Talk about what they have learned, how their thinking may have changed and why.**

Opportunities for teaching diversity, equality and expanding cultural capital

- Learning about other religions and their core beliefs, expanding cultural awareness.
- Learning about how to show respect to different people who hold different faiths and beliefs.
- Investigating how different people celebrate milestones in life, including those who do not have a religious belief - promoting respect and tolerance.



The creation of the world, painted in 1170.

### The Book of Genesis

The Book of Genesis is the very first book in the Bible, and it tells the story of how the world was created. According to Genesis, God created everything in the world, including the land, the sky, the plants, the animals, and even people. It tells us that God made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. It also tells us about the first people, Adam and Eve, and how they lived in a special garden called Eden. The book teaches us about God's love and power and helps us understand how everything began.

### The Big Frieze

In this section of the Bible's Big Story we look at the 'Creation'. The universe and human life are God's good creation. Humans are made in the image of God. The creation is told within Genesis 1-2 in The Bible. The Bible uses poetic and metaphorical language to describe God's creative acts.

### The Context

For Christians across the world, The Book of Genesis in the Bible explains the story of creation. Many Christians believe it is literal – that the World was made in 6 days. However, many other Christians believe it is more complicated, that God played a major part but that it took a lot longer. Scientists and cosmologists have another theory – that the universe was created in what is called 'The Big Bang' – a singularity that exploded into life, created the universe as it is today over billions of years, and is still expanding today.

### Creation

In the Book of Genesis, the creation story describes how God created the world. According to the story, God created the universe and all living things in six days. You learnt about the creation story and The Book of Genesis in Year 4.



### The Science View – Big Bang Theory

The Big Bang theory is a scientific explanation of how the universe began. According to this theory, about 13.8 billion years ago, all matter and energy in the universe was concentrated into an incredibly small and dense point called a singularity. Then, a tremendous explosion, known as the Big Bang, occurred, and the universe started expanding rapidly.

It's important to note that the Big Bang theory is a scientific idea, and it doesn't conflict with religious beliefs. Some people believe that God created the universe through the Big Bang. Scientists have gathered evidence from observations and experiments to support this theory, such as the movement of galaxies and the cosmic microwave background radiation.

The Big Bang theory doesn't explain what caused the singularity or what happened before it. These are still mysteries that scientists are trying to understand. It's okay to have different beliefs and perspectives on how the universe began, and science and religion can coexist and offer different ways of exploring and understanding our world.

### Cosmology

Cosmology is the scientific study of the origin, evolution, and structure of the universe. 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.

### Evolution

These 14 billion years seem to be necessary to prepare the way for the evolution of life. We have a clear general outline of the history of life on earth, but there is much work still to do concerning the details. The origin of life is still not well understood. It needed some very special conditions. Scientists sometimes speak of the Goldilocks Effect.

About three and a half billion years ago the first self-replicating cells emerged. Somehow changes took place over time in these first living things. More complex creatures resulted. Much of the detail is unknown, but the mechanisms are beginning to be understood.

### Some Christians

Some Christians do believe that the text is literally true – the earth is only a few thousand years old, God created it in six days of 24 hours. This view holds that scientific accounts of the big bang and of evolution must be incorrect, because you cannot hold both competing views.

### Most Christians

Rather than seeing scientific accounts and Genesis as being in conflict, there are many Christians who see them as complementary. One simple explanation offered by many Christians is that science addresses how questions about the universe, its origins and mechanisms, whereas religion – in this case, Christian belief in a Creator – addresses why questions: why is there a universe at all? Why do humans matter?

### Christian Scientists

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."

### Scientists

Many scientists accept the Big Bang theory as the current leading scientific explanation for the origin of the universe. It's important to note that science and religion can coexist. While science seeks to explain natural phenomena through empirical evidence, religion often addresses questions of meaning, purpose, and spiritual beliefs. Different scientists may have different personal beliefs regarding creation, and many embrace the idea that scientific knowledge and religious faith can complement each other.

Scale of Views

## KEY VOCABULARY

Genesis	the first book of the Bible, which describes how God made the world
cosmology	the study of the nature and origin of the universe
evolution	the way in which living things change and develop over millions of years
universe	everything that exists, esp. all physical matter, including all the stars and planets in space
contemporary	existing or happening now
complementary	different but useful or attractive when used together
conflict	if beliefs, needs, or facts, etc. conflict, they are very different and cannot easily exist together or both be true
science	the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the natural and physical world, or knowledge obtained about the world by watching it carefully and experimenting.

Skills and knowledge which I may use from other subjects:

**Art** • To use a range of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture.

**Computing** • Use a variety of software to design and create presentations. Use technology safely, respectfully and responsibly.

**Geography** • Investigate where major world religions are practised, locating them on a world map.

## KEY SKILLS

**Apply**

**Analyse**

**Describe**

**Connect ideas**

**Consider**

**Question**

**Discuss**

**Respond thoughtfully**

**Evaluate**

**Create**

**Outline**

**Link**

**Explain**

**Recognise impact**

**Express**

**Investigate**

## KEY KNOWLEDGE

There is much debate and some controversy around the relationship between the accounts in *Genesis* and contemporary scientific accounts.

These debates and controversies relate to the purpose and interpretation of the texts. e.g. does reading *Genesis* as a poetic account conflict with scientific accounts?

There are many scientists throughout history and now who are Christians.

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



*Key Concepts:*

- God
- Creation
- Creator
- symbol
- Genesis
- Wonder
- respect

**Recall & Remember:** Add information to your knowledge mind map regularly, to help you reflect on, and remember what you have learnt throughout the unit.

How can we hold differing views while having a... relationship?

How can we disagree respectfully?

How can we find common ground?

What does the literal view of the creation story tell us about how we should care for the earth and everything in it?

What does the scientific view tell us about this?