



Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?

There have been many different ideas about how the universe began from religion and from science. **Genesis chapter 1** in the Bible explains about a **Creator God** who made the world in six days and then rested on the seventh day.

Some Christians have a **literal** understanding of the Bible and believe this happened as exactly as it says. Their **interpretation** of the **Creation** is that God made everything in six periods of twenty-four hours.

Some people have the theory that universe began with an explosion and they call this **the Big Bang Theory**.

Some people only believe one of these stories and say that they are **conflicting** accounts of the **creation** of the universe.

Other people, such as religious scientists, believe that the stories about how the universe began are **complementary** and talk about the same thing but in different ways.

Vocabulary	Definition
Big Bang Theory	the belief that the universe began with a large explosion of matter.
Complementary	when a number of things work well together and help explain each other.
Conflicting	no agreement or support for different ideas or views.
Creation	the act of creating the world by God or everything that God created.
Creator	the being who created everything in the universe.
Genesis	the first book of the Bible and Torah which includes God creating the world.
Interpretation	an explanation of the meaning of something.
Literal	taking words and stories as they are without any interpretation
Psalm	a sacred song or hymn, in particular any of those contained in the biblical Book of Psalms and used in Christian and Jewish worship.
Science	the study of the structure and behaviour of the natural and physical world.
Theory	a set of ideas to attempt to explain something.

Lesson	Key Questions & Learning Sequence
1	What type of text is Psalm 8 is and what is its purpose? Explore the idea of a psalm being a prayer used in worship.
2	What does Psalm 8 have to say about the idea of God as creator and the place of humans in Creation? Children identify which parts of Psalm 8 are about God, which are about humans and what it tells us about creation and Christianity.
3	How do Christians respond to Psalm 8 and to God as creator? Explore different roles and jobs that Christians can do to show the idea presented in Psalm 8.
4	Why do some Christians find science and faith compatible? Compare the Bible account and the Big Bang account of creation.
5	Do we humans have great responsibility for the Earth? Discuss how well humans take care of the world and what we could do to improve it.
6	Do you think believers and non-believers are responding to this responsibility? Children reflect on how the Psalm relates to questions of religion and science.