

Year 5 Religious Education: Perspectives on Creation

Learning objective: To evaluate and compare different religious and non-religious beliefs regarding the origins of the universe and the purpose of humanity.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of religious texts and scientific theories to provide thoughtful, well-reasoned answers. Write in full sentences where required.

Across the globe, human beings have sought to answer the fundamental questions: 'How did the universe begin?' and 'What is our role within it?' Some traditions find answers in ancient sacred texts, viewing the world as a deliberate creation by a divine being. Others look to the physical evidence observed by scientists, using mathematical models and geological data to explain the expansion of the universe over billions of years. Many people today find that they can respect the wisdom found in both spiritual storytelling and the discoveries of modern science, seeing them as different ways of looking at the same magnificent mystery.

Word bank: Genesis · Stewardship · Big Bang · Creator · Evolution · Scientific theory · Interpretation · Responsibility

1. Identify one difference between a 'creation story' found in a religious text and a 'scientific theory' regarding the universe. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. Ellie the elephant is studying history and notes that some people interpret creation stories literally, while others see them as symbolic. Explain what is meant by a 'symbolic interpretation'. (3 marks) (3 marks)

3. Nova the owl is fascinated by the Big Bang theory. Describe this theory in your own words and explain why scientists believe the universe is still changing. (4 marks) (4 marks)

4. Compare and contrast the concept of 'stewardship' found in many religions with the idea of 'environmental responsibility' in secular (non-religious) ethics. How are they similar? (4 marks) (4 marks)

5. Justify the following statement: 'It is possible for a person to appreciate the beauty of a religious creation story while also accepting scientific evidence about the age of the Earth.'
(4 marks) (4 marks)

6. Extended Response: Imagine you are writing a letter to a friend explaining why humans might feel a sense of 'awe and wonder' when looking at the stars. Include references to both scientific discovery and the spiritual significance of creation. (5 marks) (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a Venn diagram showing the overlapping ideas between scientific explanations of the universe and religious beliefs about creation. Label the shared section 'Human curiosity and wonder'.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension Task: Research a creation myth from a culture you have not studied in class. Compare its narrative structure to the Genesis creation account. What might happen if we stopped telling these stories? Write a short paragraph justifying the importance of creation narratives in the modern world.