

Key Question

Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?

Key Concepts

Creation
(Biblical view)

Some Christians view the biblical creation story as a historical account explaining exactly how God created the world, true in all literal detail. Other Christians believe it to be poetic in nature, helping to explain how the world was formed before the early Christians had any scientific proof.

Big Bang
theory
(Scientific
view)

The big bang is how astronomers explain the way the universe began. It is the idea that the universe began as just a single point, then expanded and stretched to grow as large as it is right now – and it is still stretching!

Theory of
evolution
(Scientific
view)

In biology, evolution is the change in the characteristics of a species over several generations and relies on the process of natural selection. The theory of evolution is based on the idea that all species are related and gradually change over time.

Key Vocabulary

Conflicting

Where two or more things are incompatible; they disagree and clash.

Complementary

Combining in such a way as to enhance or emphasise the qualities of each other or another.

Genre

A style or category of art, music, or literature.

Theory

A set of principles or ideas intended to explain something.

Mutually
exclusive

Where you can only have one thing or another but not both

Co-exist

To exist in the same time and place in harmony despite different ideologies or interests.

Scientist

A person who is studying or has expert knowledge of science.

Key Bible Passages

Genesis 1:1 to
2:3

The Book of Genesis opens the Hebrew Bible with the story of creation. God, a spirit hovering over an empty, watery void, creates the world by speaking into the darkness and calling into being light, sky, land, vegetation, and living creatures over the course of six days.



The
Seven
Days of
Creation

Lesson Progression

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| 1 | What is so wonderful about our world? |
| 2 | What are the alternative scientific viewpoints on the creation of our world? |
| 3 | Are science and religion mutually exclusive? |
| 4 | What are the viewpoints of Christian scientists? |
| 5 | Can a Christian viewpoint and a scientific viewpoint co-exist? |