



Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Creation	The idea that the world and everything in it was created by God.
The Big Bang	A physical theory that describes how the universe expanded from an initial state of high density and temperature
Evolution	The adaptation of living things over a long period of time.
Humanism	Humanists do not believe in a god. They believe it is possible to live a good and fulfilling life without following a traditional religion.
Cosmology	Learning about how the universe was created.
Genesis	The first book of the Bible in which God creates the universe.

Judeo-Christian Creation Story



Christianity vs. Science

The Christian creation story is found in the book of **Genesis** in their holy text, the Bible.

With the development of modern science and **cosmology**, Christian views on creation have been challenged – particularly by the idea of the '**big bang theory**'.

Christians have responded to this in a variety of ways:

Young Earth Creationists

- Earth was created by God as described.
- Earth is 6000-10,000 years old
- The Bible is literally true, and science is wrong.

Old Earth Creationists

- Believe the Genesis story of creation
- 'Days' described in Genesis are not literal days
- Earth is therefore as old as modern science suggests.

Catholicism

- Do not see the Biblical creation story as literal.
- Can therefore accept the Big Bang and **evolution**.
- Think that God is behind these processes.



Humanism



Humanism is a way of thinking (a philosophy) rather than a religion. Humanists do not believe in God, gods or goddesses. They believe that all humans can live a good life and do lots of things to help people without having religious beliefs. Because humanists do not believe in an afterlife, they think it is important to make life fair and good for everyone.

Today, there are millions of humanists across the world. Humanists also have special ceremonies to mark important life events. Weddings, baby naming ceremonies and funerals are conducted by a celebrant

Creation in Other Religions

Hinduism

For Hindus the universe was created by Brahma, the creator who made the universe out of himself. After Brahma created the world, it is the power of Vishnu which preserves the world and human beings.

Zoroastrianism

The prophet Zoroaster proclaimed that Ahura Mazda was the supreme creator, the creative and sustaining force of the universe, and that human beings are given a choice between supporting Ahura Mazda or not, making them ultimately responsible for their choices.

Islam

Islam is very clear about the belief that Allah was responsible for the creation of the universe. There is no single story of creation, but there are references to it in many places in the Qur'an.



Cosmology

Humanists do not believe that any god created the world. Instead, they believe in the science of **Cosmology** and the theory that the universe was formed as part of a 'big bang'.

Humanists believe that human beings were not created, but instead evolved naturally. They believe that humans go on evolving, along with the rest of the species on our planet today.



Extending your Learning

1. Talk to friends and family about their beliefs around creation.
2. Visit a Church or Synagogue.
3. Read the Creation Story in the book of Genesis.
4. Visit the Science Museum to learn all about how scientists believe the universe was created.