



FFRINDIAU'R BYD SESSION 1

What can Religion teach us about Creation?

Learning Focus (Gwella Section 50)

- To develop opportunities for learners to make links between the school's values and Biblical teaching.
- To develop opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which characterised by distinctively Christian values.

Encounter

To start our project we think about creation stories from different religions and what they might teach us.

The Wonder of Creation

Use the story of the Wally the Tenby Walrus to discuss the wonder of God's creation. Other examples could be given, for example, the smallest mammal, the tallest tree. Show the variety of God's creation including different people.

Wally disappeared for a week. Why?

We are part of God's creation, but we must use it respectfully and care for all living things – animals, plants and other people.

What do religions teach us about creation?

Many world religions have stories to explain how our world was created. In the Bible, the Torah and the Qur'an there are stories of God creating the world, including humans. Christians and Jews share the same creation story. In the Bible it is in the first book called Genesis. The Jewish Torah begins with the same account of God creating the world. There is an order to creation: light, water, land, plants, sea creatures & birds, animals and people.

Use RE Quest games or picture cards to order the story.

Made in the image of God

Christians and Jews believe that people are made in the image of God. This does not mean that we look like God physically but that we can develop his qualities. We form relationships with other people, and we can form a relationship with God. We talk to him through our prayers and praise him through songs in our worship. As people we can learn how God wants us to act and follow this in our lives, for example caring for everything else God created. As we are made in God's image, we must be responsible. We have a sense of what is right and wrong. We are accountable for how we use the things we are given – the theme of stewardship. We can glorify and praise God through what we do. We must think carefully We can make decisions which help other people. We can solve problems. We have a conscience.

List some every day decisions that you make that help others or our world?

We can be creative, just like God. Everything we need to live has been given to us in God's creation.

Plants – food and medicine, animals – food and clothing, minerals etc. that come from the earth. Humans using their creativity to solve problems and be responsible – people using skills to help others in the pandemic, medical care etc.

Thomas Aquinas said 'humans are naturally inclined to be good' (like creation)

If we are made in God's image, we have dignity and worth. We must value everything else that God created. The rest of creation matters too.

Jewish Beliefs

Caring for creation gives a sense of God's glory – called Shekhinah. This is experienced through study of the scriptures, worship and prayer.

Islamic beliefs

Allah is responsible for creating the universe, but the Qur'an does not refer to a single creation story like the Bible or Torah does.

Allah commanded that things came into being.

There is a created order but not necessarily constrained by time. This includes living creatures, angels, planets and rain for plants to grow. It is believed that it took Allah 6 days to create the world.

Muslims believe that the world was created to allow people to live and thrive.

Muslims are taught khalifah – stewardship. It is central to their faith.

Foundation Phase Video - Charlie and Blue Ask about Allah and Creation - TrueTube

Allah created people. Angels were sent to earth to collect 7 handfuls of soil, all of which were different colours. With a mixture of this soil Allah made Adam.

Christians, Jews and Muslims all believe that God breathed life into people.



Reflect

Do you think we are taking good care of God's world?

What has it got to do with me?

Why does it matter?

What is stewardship?

Did God only create good things?

Y R E G L W Y S
Y N G N G H Y M R U



THE CHURCH
IN WALES