



Creation and Science: Conflicting or Complementary?



Does the creation story conflict or complement a scientific account?

Background Information

The discoveries of science make Christians wonder even more about the power and majesty of the Creator. There is much debate and some controversy around the relationship between the accounts of creation in Genesis and contemporary scientific accounts. These debates and controversies relate to the purpose and interpretation of the texts. There are many scientists throughout history and now who are now Christians.

Key Questions:

- What is the story of 'The Creation' in the Bible?
- What is a scientific account of cosmology (the beginning of the universe) and of evolution (the development of living things)?
- How can Genesis 1 be interpreted about God as Creator? Does reading Genesis as a poetic account conflict with scientific accounts?
- Why do many Christians think that science and faith go together?
- What are Christian and non-Christian beliefs about the Creation and where is there conflict of opinion?

Key Vocabulary

(the) Creation *the making of the world, especially by God as described in the Bible*

Creator *God (whom Christians believe created the world)*

Genesis *the beginning or origin of something*

Science *knowledge about the structure and behaviour of the natural and physical world, based on facts that you can prove, for example by experiments*

Conflict *a situation in which there are opposing ideas, opinions, feelings or wishes*

Complement *to add to something in a way that improves it or makes it more attractive*

Evolution *the gradual development of plants, animals, etc. over many years as they adapt to changes in their environment*

Cosmology *the scientific study of the universe and its origin and development*

Universe *the whole of space and everything in it, including the earth, the planets and the stars*

Controversy *public discussion and argument about something that many people strongly disagree about, disapprove of, or are shocked by*

Interpretation *the particular way in which something is understood or explained*

Psalms *a song, poem or prayer that praises God, especially one in the Bible*

