

HOW WAS THE WORLD CREATED?

Learning outcomes:

To **describe** views on creation

To **explain** the Big Bang theory

To **evaluate** creation stories

Starter:

Explain 2 Christian teaching
about God the creator.

Refer to Christian scripture-
Genesis in your answer

Key Terms

- **Big Bang:** a massive expansion of space which set in motion the creation of the universe.
- **Universe:** all of time and space and its contents; includes planets, stars, galaxies, the contents of intergalactic space, the smallest subatomic particles, and all matter and energy.
- **Fundamentalist Christians:** Christians who believe that the statements in the Bible are literally true and believe there are certain basic beliefs that are essential to the Christian faith.
- **Liberals:** Christians who believe that the Bible's authors were guided by God, but that not everything they wrote is a literal account of what actually happened.
- **Wonder:** marvelling at the complexity and beauty of the universe.
- **Awe:** a feeling of devout respect, mixed with fear or wonder.
- **Responsibility:** a duty to care for, or having control over something or someone.
- **Stewardship:** the idea that believers have a duty to look after the environment on behalf of God.
- **Dominion:** dominance or power over something; having charge of something or ruling over it.



List as many ways the world has been created either according to religion or science – or your own take!

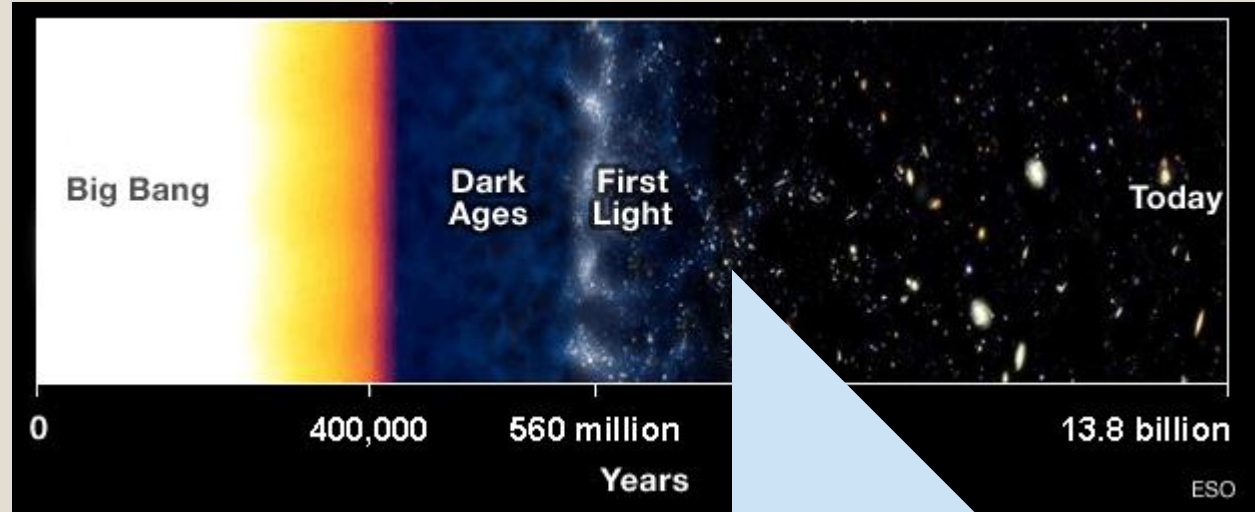
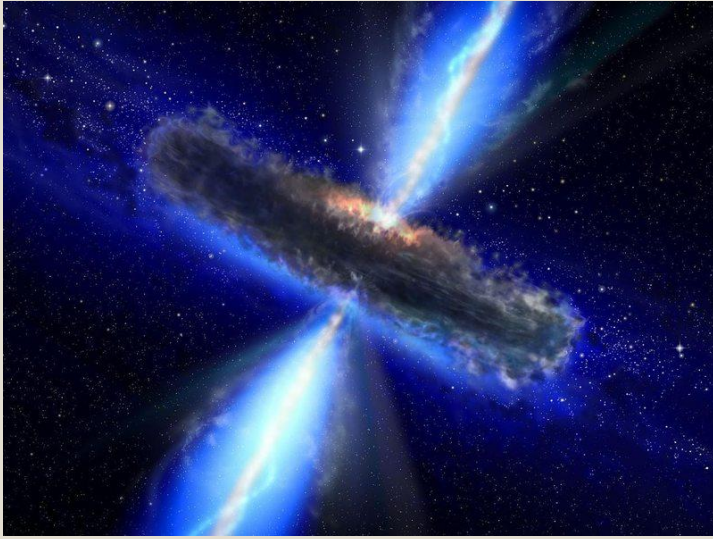


In today's lesson we will be covering:

1. The Big Bang Theory
2. Genesis
3. John's account
4. Thomas Aquinas
5. Dependent arising

**What do you
already
know about
these
things?**

The Big Bang Theory



1. The universe started with a tiny, dense collection of mass.

2. A massive expansion of space took place and the condensed matter was flung in all directions. This happened over the next 13.8 billion years or so.

3. As the universe expanded and cooled, the matter became stars grouped into galaxies.

4. The universe has continued to expand over billions of years to form the cosmos as we know it today.

What are these images showing?

**“In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.”**

John 1:1 (KJV)



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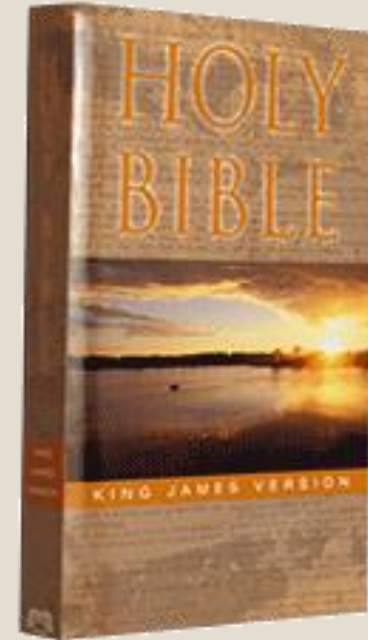
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Christians View on the Origin of the Universe

1. Find and read Genesis 1:1- 2.3
2. Write down the key parts of the creation story i.e. Day 1: God said 'Let there be light.' He called the 'light' day and the darkness night.
3. Why may some Christians believe this is the true story of how the universe was created?
4. Why may some Christians view this as symbolic accounts of the creation story?

Challenge!

Why may some Christians believe in the Big Bang theory as well as Genesis?



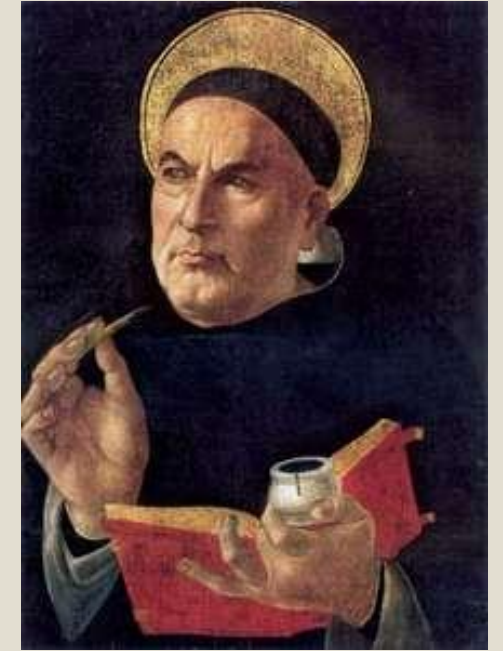
Was the Big Bang from God?

- Some professing Christians accept the claim that God used naturalistic processes, including the big bang, to create the universe. They might agree with atheistic astronomers that the stars and planets formed over billions of years—with only one exception, that God's hand directed these processes. Unfortunately, such views deny what the Creator Himself has said.



Ex Nihilo – Out of Nothing

- **St Thomas Aquinas** (1225 – 1274) developed the most popular argument as a 'way' (not proof) of showing that there must be a God.
- Aquinas argued that everything in the **cosmos** has a **cause**. If you track things back through a series of causes, there must have been a 'first cause'. He said that this 'first cause' is God, whom he described as a '**necessary being**', eternal and transcendent, existing outside of our space and time but able to act within it, needing no explanation and having no cause.
- **Strengths of the argument**
- Scientific discoveries, e.g. the **Big Bang theory**, can be seen to support the first cause argument. If God caused the 'Big Bang', then God is the 'first cause' that brought the cosmos (universe) into existence.
- It confirms to the **theist** that there is purpose to the cosmos and a place for God as its 'creator'.





**How can
this
image
relate to
the
universe?**

One day a man was hit by a poisoned arrow and would only live if a doctor removed it quickly enough. His friends found a doctor to remove the arrow, but the man refused the doctor's help. He first wanted to find out who had shot the arrow. He wanted to know what type of person they were, where they came from, and what sort of bow they were using. But before the man could find out the answers to these questions, the poison took effect and the man died.



How can this story from Buddhism show their beliefs on the origins of the universe?

Buddhist Beliefs On The Origins Of The World

- Buddhism teaches that all things are dependent upon conditions (dependent arising) as well as the cycle of samsara.
- Both of these teachings are relevant to Buddhist thinking about the origins of the universe. Here is how:
- They does not state anything about the belief in how the universe was created. Instead Buddhists view the universe as a cycle of life. They suggest that the universe came into existence, expand and evolve, then wither and die, over and over again – without beginning or end.
- The Buddha said that to know the origins of the universe was an unanswerable question! He said that he taught about the cure to suffering, not about the universe, pondering over this was not going to help end suffering. Similar to the arrow story.
- “For here there is no Brahma God, Creator of the round births, Phenomena alone flow on – Cause and component their condition.” The Visuddhimagga, p. 603

1. Read the information.
2. Explain two Buddhism beliefs on the origins of the world. Refer to religious teachings in your answer. (5 marks)

What Is The Value Of The Universe?



What is the value of the world?

Buddhism

- Buddhists value the world because it provides and sustains life. It also provides the conditions needed to achieve enlightenment. Buddhism teaches that although the world belongs to nobody, it is everyone's responsibility to look after it.
- To be born a human is enormously fortunate, and follows many lives in other, less conscious forms. In this world, there was once a Buddha who explained the origins of suffering and the way to end it. Had people been born into another world, they would have never heard of his teaching.
- Buddhists in Britain say they are the most fortunate among the people as they have enough to eat and are free to follow any faith they want.

“Where shall I find such favourable circumstances again? The arising of a Buddha, Faith, in the human state itself, The capacity to practise skilful deeds, Health and this day with food and freedom from disaster.” The Bodhicaryavatara, chapter 4, verses 15-16

Christianity

- Christians view the world as a priceless gift from God, loaned to humans as a result of his love. The beauty of the world can give a sense of awe and wonder and devout respect for God's power of creation.
- “When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?” Psalms 8:3-4
- “For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.” Romans 1:20

Awe and Wonder

- We live in a universe that is complex and mysterious. There is plenty to wonder at, even if nobody created it. Christians believe that God made it all, as it is too complex to have happened by chance.
- Buddhists believe that humans live in a vast web of interconnectedness with nature, people and all sorts of things, through time and space. As dependent arising teaches, everything is dependent on other things, this concept then becomes mysterious as we must all be connected in ways that no one could imagine.

Read what
Christians and
Buddhists believe.
What do you
think?
Are your views
similar or different?
How and why?

'The Big Bang theory explains how God created the universe.'

Evaluate this statement. In your answer you should:

- Give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- Give reasoned arguments in support of a different point of view
 - Refer to religious teachings
 - May refer to non-religious arguments
 - Reach a justified conclusion (12 marks)

For – Some Christians/Buddhists agree with this statement because...Evidence for this is...This supports their view because...

Against – Some Christians/Buddhists disagree with this statement because...Evidence for this is...This supports their view because...

Religious – Some _____.... Evidence for this is...This supports their view because...

My opinion – Overall, I think the strongest argument is...because...Therefore...

Mark your work using the criteria below:

Levels	Criteria	Marks
4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information.	10-12
3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant information.	7-9
2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence	4-6
1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1-3
0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0

If God didn't create the universe, what did?

