

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year 8

## 'Are the ideas of religion and science compatible?'

### Knowledge Organiser

A **myth** is a traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero or event.

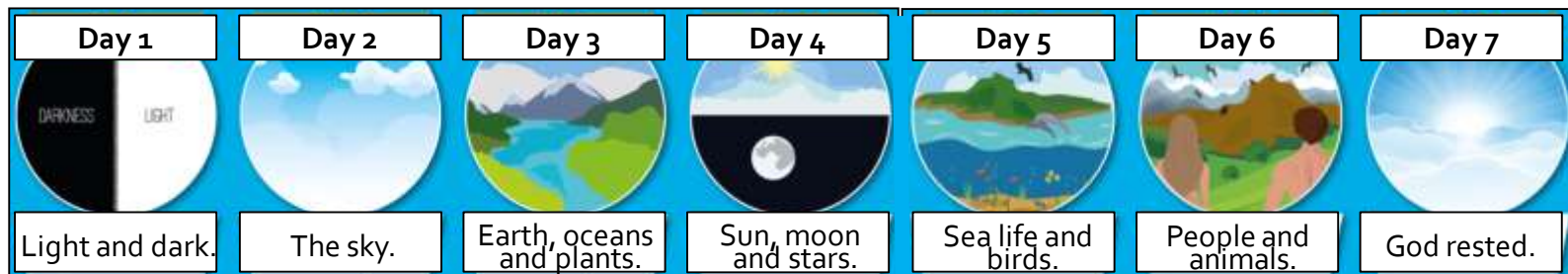
An **origin story** is a story of how the world began.

**Cultural** means the ideas, customs and social behaviour of a society.

### The Christian creation story

The Christian creation story is found in the book of **Genesis**. Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament in the Bible. Genesis is divided into three parts/chapters. Genesis 1 looks at the creation of the world and is a more factual account, whereas Genesis 2 and 3 focus only on the creation of humans, and is more of a personal account, because God speaks to Adam. In both Genesis 1 and 2 and 3,

God is the creator of everything, God thought His creation was good. Humans are the most complex of God's creation, created in His image and given the special role of caretakers of creation.



Some people believe that the Genesis creation accounts are simply a story, whereas others will believe the account to be literally true.

### Scientific explanations for the creation of the world

#### Big Bang Theory

First proposed by Alexander Friedmann, a Russian mathematician in 1922 and expanded upon by Georges-Henri Lemaître, a physicist, who was also a Roman Catholic priest. Before the Big Bang, there was nothing at all. Around 14 billion years ago, all matter and energy in the universe

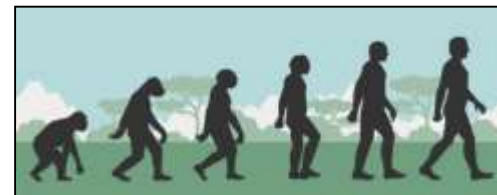
was at the point of infinite density and temperature. Everything was packed into a tiny electron smaller than the tip of a pin. This tiny electron turned into a giant fireball of matter and energy. Time began and everything started expanding outwards at the speed



of light. Matter and energy have been spreading across the universe ever since. Approximately one million years later, the universe was left to expand and cool. Stars, galaxies and planets started to form. Eventually around 4,6 billion years ago the Earth formed. It gradually cooled creating conditions in which life was possible on the new planet Earth.

#### Evolution

In 1859, a British man called Charles Darwin published a book called 'On the Origin of Species.' This book was based on his studies of creatures he had encountered on his travels to many overseas locations, including the Galapagos Islands. He put forward the theory that all living creatures, including humans, have evolved or changed over a period of perhaps millions of years, from more simpler life forms to how they are today by a process of natural selection whereby unsuccessful species die out. This is called 'survival of the fittest.'



## Genesis versus scientific explanations for the creation of the world

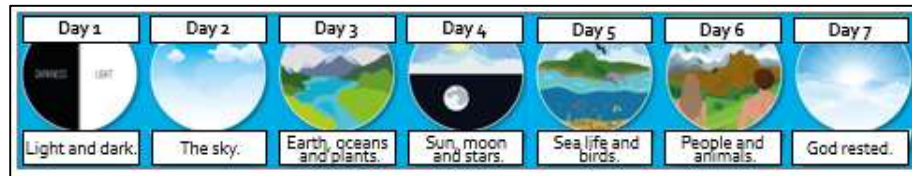
### It is not possible to believe in both scientific explanations for the creation of the world and a creator God

#### Science created the world

The Big Bang theory is the idea that all the matter expanded, sending material outwards at the speed of light. The fact Earth exists and is able to sustain life is therefore a result of random chance. No creator/God is needed. Scientists have even found evidence the universe is still expanding using high powered telescopes. They also believe static on a television screen is caused by leftover radiation from the initial expansion. Scientists believe that they have found evidence for evolution by looking at fossil records and discovering humans share 99% of their DNA with chimpanzees, making them our closest living relatives. Therefore a creator God is not needed.

#### God created the world

Some Christians believe that evolution has not been fully proved, so God created the world.



**Young Earth Creationists** believe the Genesis account is literally true, that God created the world in 6 days in the order outlined and rested on on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. They date the world to between 6,000 and 10,000 years old by adding up the ages of people named in the Bible and the historical periods since the Bible was written. No part of the Big Bang theory or Evolution are true.



Old Earth Creationists believe the Genesis account is a story and needs interpreting. Each day is instead a time period so the world is very old.



Catholicism teaches that the Genesis and scientific explanations for creation do not contradict each other and that the Genesis creation account is more a story than literal account of creation. Pope Francis said in 2014 that God could have used the Big Bang and Evolution as His method to create the world.