

GOD MADE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE: AND IT WAS GOOD

BIG IDEA

God shaped the universe and He filled it. The heavens tell of the glory of God; the skies display his marvelous craftsmanship. Psalm 19:1 TNLB

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy two packets of balloons (a packet of blue and a packet of white)

Buy pineapple lumps or sweets

Cut out the six coloured cards from the appendix and fold each in half so they will stand on the table in an upside down V shape

Find a kitchen timer or mobile phone to use as 'starter gun' for the game and to time them (optional)

BLOW UP THE BLUE AND WHITE BALLOONS and have them in a big pile in the middle of the room (or blow them up together)

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start

INTRO

Explain to the children that you are going to talk about the very beginning of the world, and how God made the universe and filled it with all the things we see and don't see.



GAME

With their hands behind their backs, the children need to separate the blue 'waters' and white 'clouds' balloons by blowing them! Sound the 'starter gun' (or say "Ready, steady, go" with a clap!) and time them to see how long it takes!

Now split the family into two teams – one team with blue balloons, and the other with white. Each team needs to get their balloons to the other end while the opposing team tries to do the same. This time the children must use their noses to push the balloons along.

Variation: the children could use one hand to bat the balloons while holding the other hand behind their backs.

Everything we see tells us
that our world is filled with
God and shaped
by Him.

Award sweets or pineapple lumps to the winning team.

NOW TAKE THE SIX CARDS AND PLACE THEM ON THE TABLE. See if the children can guess what parts of God's creation are represented by the pictures.

Now choose the child who has the nearest birthday to try to work out the order of creation and arrange the cards in the correct sequence.

READ

Check whether you have the right order by reading the following account from Genesis 1:1-24.

BEFORE YOU READ, HAVE THE KIDS RUN AROUND THE HOUSE AND COLLECT UP THESE OBJECTS TO HOLD WHILE THEY LISTEN: (you may like to get the children to do this before you start)

- a torch
- a leaf or twig
- a feather or bird
- a toy animal or doll
- a cup of water
- a star
- a pillow

AS YOU GET TO THE PART WHICH IS REPRESENTED BY AN OBJECT, THE HOLDER LIFTS IT FOR EVERYONE TO SEE

When you read, keep emphasising the way God saw that it was good!



First this: God created the Heavens and the Earth – all you see, all you don't see. Earth was a dark soup of nothing, a bottomless emptiness. God's Spirit watched like a bird above the deep, dark water.

God spoke: "Light!" – and light appeared. **(the torch)** God saw that light was good. God named the light Day, He named the dark Night. It was evening, and it was morning – Day One.

God spoke: "Sky!" And there it was: He named sky the Heavens; It was evening, and it was morning – Day Two.

God spoke: "Land, appear!" And there it was. God named the land Earth. He named the pooled water Ocean. **(cup of water)** God saw that it was good.

God spoke: "Earth! Grow all varieties of green plants, every sort of fruit tree." And there it was. **(the leaf)** God saw that it was good. It was evening, and it was morning – Day Three.

God spoke: "Lights! Come out! Shine in Heaven's sky! Separate Day from Night." And there it was. God made two big lights, the larger to take charge of Day, the smaller to be in charge of Night; and he made the stars. **(the star)** God saw that it was good. It was evening, and it was morning – Day Four.

God spoke: "Ocean, fill with fish and all sea life! Birds, fly through the sky over Earth!" God saw that it was good. God blessed them: "Fish in the waters – have children! Birds in the sky – have children!" **(the feather)** It was evening, and it was morning – Day Five.

God spoke: “Earth! become alive with every kind of life!” And there it was: wild animals of every kind, cattle of all kinds, every sort of reptile and bug. **(toy animal)** God saw that it was good.

God spoke: “Let us make people to reflect our image, so they can take care of the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, and, yes, Earth itself.” God created people in His image, reflecting his nature. He created them male and female.

God blessed them: “Have children! **(doll or soft toy)** Take care of every living thing on the Earth.”

Then God said, “I’ve given you every sort of plant and fruit tree for food. To everything that moves and breathes. I give whatever grows out of the ground for food.” And there it was. God looked over everything He had made; it was so good, so very good! It was evening, and it was morning – Day Six.

Heaven and earth were finished, down to the last detail. By the seventh day God had finished His work. He rested on the seventh day, He rested from all his work. **(the pillow)** God blessed the seventh day. He made it a Holy Day because on that day He rested from His work, all the creating God had done.))

Genesis 1-2

My First Message, Eugene Petersen, pages 11-16,
NavPress © 2007

GAME

Now run a competition to see who can put the cards in the right order in the quickest time. (Give time bonuses according to age.)

EXPLORE

QUESTIONS

What did God think about what He created?

What do you think He felt when he made waves?

What about a giraffe or the Australian lyre bird that can copy 20 or more sounds?

Does anyone know how many galaxies God made? (Nobody knows for sure but a recent German super-computer simulation estimates that the number may be as high as 500 billion!)

What is the smallest/tiniest animal that you know?

Talk about the way God was so delighted with what He had created.

QUESTIONS

Have you ever felt really good about something you have made? What was it?

PRAY

Thank you God for everything you designed and created.

Each person choose a particular part of creation they most appreciate and tell God why you love it.

LIVE

God had in mind all the wonder of the world when He first created it, and He was delighted with what He had made. He made us to be like Him so we can also enjoy creating things and delight in what we create.

This week think about things that God must have smiled about when He created them. Share your ideas at the dinner table.

FAITH BOARD

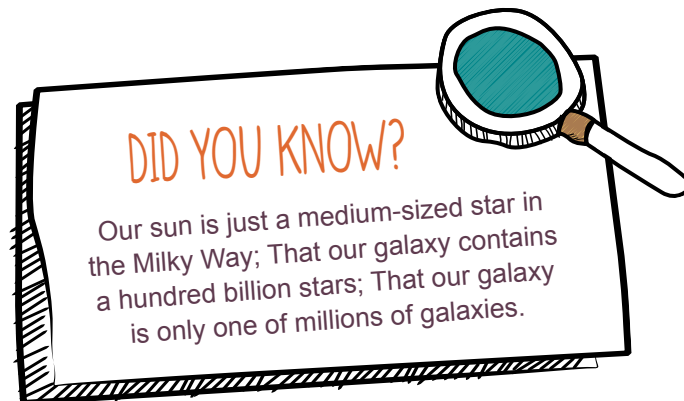


OTHER IDEAS

1 Create flowers out of card and glue-stick a coloured mini paper muffin case to the centre. Tape a straw/stick to the back of the flower. In the centre of the muffin case add a photo of someone in your family. Make a flower for each member of the family and place them in the vase for the table. Talk about the way God made you and takes care of you.

2 **Play charades**
Make a pile of cards with names of different creatures on them. Ask the children to pick a card and act out the animal, while the others try to guess what it is.

3 Go for a walk somewhere together where you can enjoy God's amazing creation. Or walk outside after dark, where you can look up into the sky and see the zillions of stars. Go on-line and try the game Animal Warp and see what weird animals you can create!! Check it out at www.christiananswers.net/kids/menu-act.html



APPENDIX

SESSION ONE

CREATION CARDS

- Cut out the six coloured pictures on pages 65 & 67
- Fold each in half so they will stand on the table in an upside down V shape.
- See if the children can guess what things the pictures represent from the creation story.
- See if they can work out in what order the things were created – and have them try to arrange the cards in sequence.





SESSION ONE

CREATION CARDS

Answer key (in correct order):

3. Light (day) & dark (night)

2. Ocean (waters of earth) & clouds (waters of the sky) - "God made this space to separate the waters of the earth from the waters of the heavens. God called the space "sky." (Genesis 1:7-8)

6. Land (Earth) & plants

1. Lights (sun, moon & stars)

5. Fish & birds

4. Animals & people

4



5



6

