

Key Concepts

Theist	Agnostic	Atheist	Cause and effect	Creator	Conscience	Universe	Eternal
Someone who believes in God	Someone who is unsure whether God exists	Someone who believes there is no God	Principle that everything has a cause (a reason or force that brings it into being)	Person or being responsible for creating the universe	Aspect of our thoughts concerned with right and wrong	Everything that exists – us, our planet and the rest of space	Something that has existed forever and will exist for ever in the future
	?	NO GOD!			Y/N		

FOR (F) = GOD EXISTS AGAINST (A) = GOD DOES NOT EXIST

WHAT IS THE BEST ARGUMENT?

DOUBLE ARROWS = COUNTER-ARGUMENTS

A. Who created God then? And if the universe has a cause it might not be God.

F. The universe must have a cause, God, it cannot have come from nowhere – **first cause argument**

A. Our conscience comes from our experience as we grow up, not God.

F. Our conscience comes from God, so he exists – **moral argument (Newman)**

Arguments

F. When you see a watch, you know it has a maker. The same is true with the universe and the maker is God. – **Design Argument (Paley)**

A. Religion is something we invent to deal with our fears in the face of death. - **Feuerbach**

A. The universe simply occurred by chance, there is no being behind it all.

F. How would a religious person respond? They could talk about their spiritual experiences

The big bang

Scientists believe the Universe began in a hot 'big bang' about 13,600 million years ago. The Universe continues to expand today.

The theory states that about 13.7 billion years ago all the matter in the Universe was concentrated into a single incredibly tiny point. This began to enlarge rapidly in a hot explosion, and it is still expanding today.

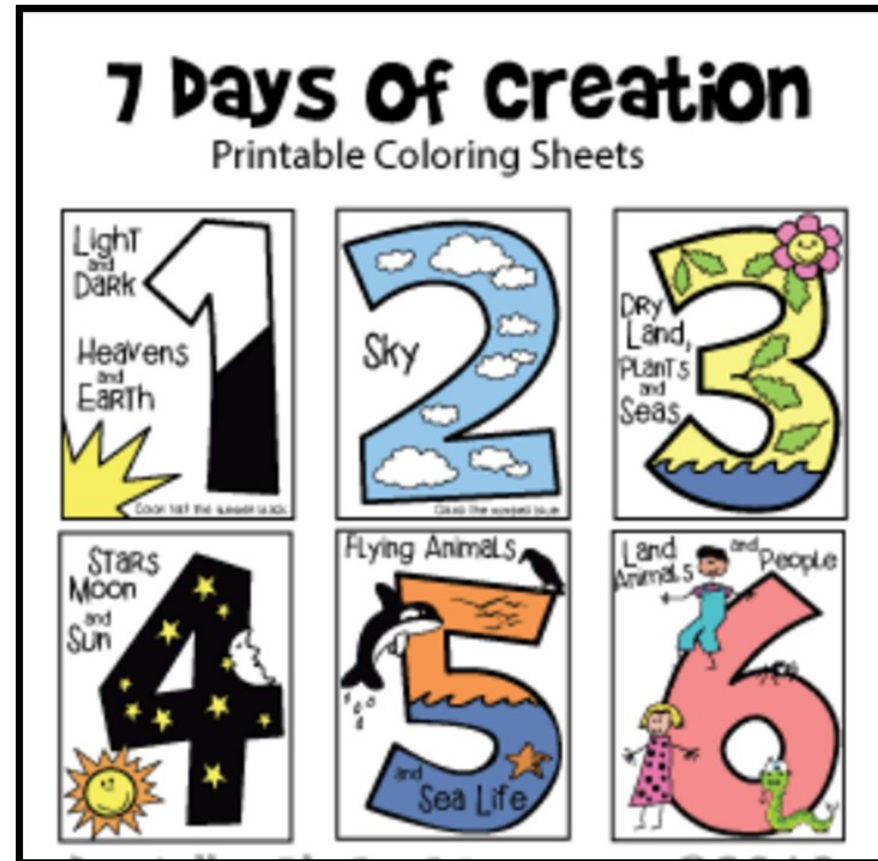
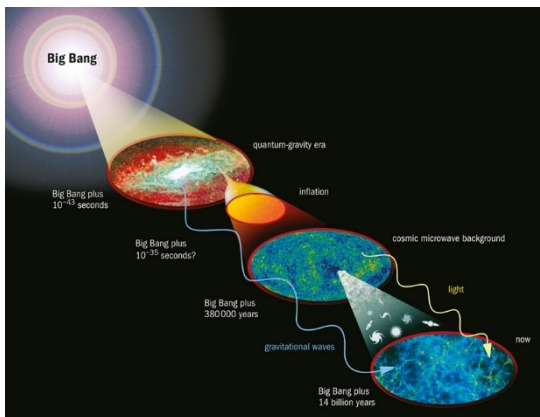
Evidence for the Big Bang includes:

All the galaxies are moving away from us

The further away a galaxy is, the faster it is moving away.

These two features are found in explosions - the fastest moving objects end up furthest away from the explosion.

Scientists have also detected a cosmic microwave background radiation or CMBR. This is received from all parts of the Universe and is thought to be the heat left over from the original explosion.



Scientific Knowledge

Scientists will often work at a hypothesis which they accept as true until it can be disproved.

The hypothesis will be tested again and again until it can be proved one way or the other. If evidence disproves the theory then the process begins again.

Islam and science

Islam teaches that its followers should explore the world around them and ask questions. Muslims are encouraged to pursue scientific discoveries and knowledge of the world. The more they discover, the more they understand how God works. In the Middle Ages, Islam entered what they called the Golden Ages of discovery – whilst in Europe, this period was known as the Dark Ages.

Because the Islamic calendar is a lunar one they needed a good knowledge of astronomy. Scholars found out what caused a rainbow. The astronomer Abu al-Fida even has a crater on the moon named after him. In Europe, we still thought the earth was flat.

Muslims gave us our simple 0 – 9. Muslims also invented the decimal system. Muslim scholars also invented ‘al-jabr’ (what part of maths is that? Hint – say it out loud)

Hospitals appeared in major Islamic towns and their organisation was impressive. Muslim doctors understood that some diseases were contagious so separated those patients from the others. They studied smallpox and discovered how the immune system works (in Europe we were still using leeches).

Christianity and science

The only really educated people were the Christian monks in the abbeys.

They could read the Bible in Latin and could write and produce beautiful manuscripts at a time when most in people Europe could not read and write.

The early Middle Ages in Europe saw a decline in scientific enquiry. The only schools were set up by churches – they made it compulsory for everyone at school to learn about religion. This law still stands to this day.

The church wouldn't allow the common people to read the Bible in their own language. They had to rely on priests to tell them what the Bible meant.

The Medieval church controlled all aspects of people's lives. People were not allowed to question what the church taught them.