

Teach Key – Overview: Three Christian Views of Creation

Note: This is a simplified picture of how Christians agree and disagree about creation. Variations of these three views exist and some interesting details are not included. This overview will give you a general idea of the different conclusions Christians reach while trying to honor God in the way they understand what he revealed in his Word (the Bible) and his world (the created universe).

	Young-Earth Creation (YEC)	Old-Earth Creation (OEC)	Evolutionary Creation (EC)
Did God create everything? (Yes or No)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Does creation show God’s greatness? (Yes or No)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Is the Bible the word of God and trustworthy? (Yes or No)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are humans created in God’s image? (Yes or No)	Yes	Yes	Yes
How should we understand the first chapter of Genesis?	Genesis 1 is history and “day” means a <u>normal</u> <u>24-hour</u> <u>day</u>	Genesis 1 is history and “day” means a <u>longer</u> <u>period of</u> <u>time</u> (such as when we say, “in Lincoln’s day”).	The main purpose of Genesis 1 is not to teach details of history or science, but to teach vital truths in terms the original audience would understand.

<p>About how old is the earth?</p>	<p>~10,000 yrs</p>	<p>4.5 billion yrs</p>	<p>4.5 billion yrs</p>
<p>About how old is the universe?</p>	<p>~10,000 yrs</p>	<p>13.8 billion yrs</p>	<p>13.8 billion yrs</p>
<p>Did God use miracles (M) or natural processes (NP) to create the stars and planets?</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>NP</p>	<p>NP</p>
<p>Did God use miracles (M) or natural processes (NP) to create major groups—basic kinds—of living things, like the first cells, the first birds, the first elephants, and so on?</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>NP</p>
<p>Did God use miracles (M) or natural processes (NP) to make different varieties of the same basic kind of living thing, like the minor differences between African and Indian Elephants?</p>	<p>NP</p>	<p>NP</p>	<p>NP</p>
<p>Did the universe begin with the big bang? (Yes or No) The big bang theory says that all matter and energy in the universe were originally packed into a very small and VERY hot bundle (so hot it was all energy), which suddenly expanded and cooled, allowing matter to “condense” from the energy. Gravitational attraction between the particles gradually pulled them into clumps that formed stars, planets, etc.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Should we trust very old ages (e.g., millions and billions of years) obtained by radioactive dating? (Yes or No)	No	Yes	Yes
Did Noah's flood greatly reshape earth's surface, forming most sedimentary rocks and burying many of the fossils? (Yes or No)	Yes	No	No