

TEACHER 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”). | Genesis 1 is <u>more than</u> <u>history</u>. It is <u>God’s word</u> and teaches vital truth about <u>God</u> and <u>people</u> but its main purpose is not to teach details of <u>history</u> or <u>science</u>. |

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|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <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> |

Meet the Cast (Key)

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|--|------------|------------|------------|
| 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 |