

Topic:

The Natural World

ENQUIRY QUESTION: Assessment: What do different religions teach about the natural world and our responsibility for it?

Key Vocabulary:

Creation: The act of making the world, often described in religious stories.

Stewardship: The belief that humans should care for the Earth.

Dominion: The idea that humans have power over nature, with responsibility.

Sacred: Something holy or deeply respected.

Responsibility: A duty to act with care and thoughtfulness.

Interdependence: How all living things rely on each other

Essential Knowledge:

- Explain how religious stories describe the creation of the world.
- Understand what stewardship means and why it matters.
- Give examples of how religious people care for the environment.
- Reflect on their own responsibility towards nature.
- Understand that many religions teach that the world was created by God and is sacred.
- Know that in Christianity and Judaism, humans are seen as caretakers of the Earth.
- Explain that the Bible states: "The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it" (Psalm 24).
- Recognize that dominion is sometimes understood as ruling wisely, not exploiting nature.
- Understand the scientific explanation of the formation of the world through the Big Bang Theory and why secular societies and non-religious people consider that stewardship of the planet is important.

Links to Barbara Wintersgill's Big Ideas:

A Good Life: This Big Idea focuses on the ethical and moral dimensions of religious and non-religious worldviews. When studying the natural world, this idea links to the concept of **stewardship**—what a good life means in terms of our responsibility to care for the planet and other living things.

Making Sense of Life's Experiences: This idea explores how religions and worldviews help people understand and respond to the human experience. Creation stories fall directly into this category, as they provide answers to fundamental questions like, "Where did the world come from?" and "What is our place in it?"

British Values

- **Mutual Respect for and Tolerance of those with Different Faiths and Beliefs**
- **Individual Liberty**
- **The Rule of Law**

Religious stories covered - Creation stories from different religions including Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

SMSC Links:

- **Spiritual:** Pupils will reflect on the beauty and destruction of the natural world and how nature can inspire spiritual reflection.
- **Moral:** Students will explore their own responsibility towards the natural world.
- **Social:** They will understand how religious communities take action to protect the environment and find out how to make their local area more sustainable.
- **Cultural:** Students will learn about how different religions teach about the natural world and our responsibility for it.