

# Knowledge Organiser: Creation Stories

## Key Words

**Mystery**—A question that has no simple answer.

**Story**—A tale designed to interest, amuse, instruct or teach.

**Myth**—A legendary story that wants to explain something and might be partly true.

**Dominion**—having power and authority over something else like animals.

**Creationist Christians**—Believe everything in the Bible is a fact and happened exactly as it was described. The Bible is historically true.

**Liberal Christians**—Believe that the creation story is a myth. It does contain some important



## Hindu Creation Story

Before time began there was no heaven, no earth and no space between. A vast dark ocean washed upon the shores of nothingness and licked the edges of night. A **giant cobra** floated on the waters. Asleep within its endless coils lay the **Lord Vishnu**. He was watched over by the mighty serpent. Everything was so peaceful and silent that Vishnu slept undisturbed.



From the depths a humming sound began to tremble, **Om**. It grew and spread, filling the emptiness and throbbing with energy. Vishnu awoke and from Vishnu's navel grew a magnificent **lotus flower**. In the middle of the blossom sat Vishnu's servant, **Brahma**. Vishnu spoke 'It is time to begin, 'create the world.'

Vishnu and the serpent vanished. Brahma remained in the lotus flower, floating on the sea. Brahma split the lotus flower into three. He stretched one part into the **heavens**. He made another part into the **earth**. With the third part of the flower he created the **skies**.

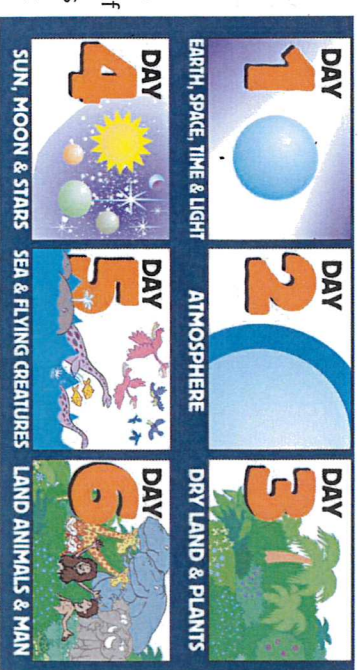
The earth was bare. Brahma set to work. He created grass, flowers, trees and plants of all kinds. Next he created the **animals and the insects** to live on the land. He made **birds to fly in the air** and many fish to swim in the sea. To all these creatures, he gave the senses of touch and smell. He gave them power to see, hear and move.

The world was soon bristling with life and the air was filled with the sounds of Brahma's creation.

## Christian Creation Story

The Christian creation story is in **Genesis**, the first book of the Bible. It shows Christians that God created the world **from nothing** (ex nihilo) and in 6 days, resting on the 7th day. God is believed to have given humans **dominion** over the rest of creation which meant they had **responsibility** to look after the Earth and all its inhabitants.

Christians have different beliefs about this as a creation story. Some consider it to be a factual account of creation (**creationists**), whilst others believe that the story is a myth that has symbolic meaning (**liberalists**).



## Scientific Creation Story

Scientists believe the Universe began in a **Big Bang** (huge explosion) about 14 billion years ago. At that time, the entire Universe was inside a bubble that was thousands of times smaller than a pinhead. It was hotter and denser than anything we can imagine. Then it suddenly exploded. The Universe that we know was born. Time, space and matter all began with the Big Bang.

In a fraction of a second, the Universe grew from smaller than a single atom to bigger than a galaxy. As the Universe expanded and cooled, energy changed into particles of matter, forming hydrogen and eventually stars. When stars die and explode (**supernova**), they release all of the materials needed to create planets and also life.

Scientists also believe that life on Earth has developed over millions of years and humans are here as a result of a process of **evolution**. Humans and other animals have evolved by adapting to their environment through a process known as **Natural Selection** (species who are best suited to their environment are successful and pass on their genes to their offspring).



**Liberal Christians** do support current scientific theory and believe that God could have caused the Big Bang and is therefore still the creator of the universe.