The most basic question for science and philosophy is, “How did the universe begin?” In the 20th century, secular astronomers came to the undisputed conclusion that the entire universe (time, space, matter, and energy) had a beginning from nothing. But, they cannot, in any way, explain how.

Genesis 1:1 gives the only reasonable answer to the “how” question—God created everything. God revealed that the universe exists because He brought it into existence from nothing. The Hebrew word translated “created” is bara, which means “specially created” (it is also used twice for mankind’s creation in verse 27).

Beyond that initial creation event, Genesis 1–2 outlines the six-day progression God followed to create the earth. Day one: the Spirit of God called forth light, which established days and nights. Day two: He formed the sky. Day three: Dry land emerged. He called the land “earth” and the waters “sea.” Plants and trees appeared and God declared them good.

Day four: God opened the skies to reveal the sun, the moon, and the stars to light the earth. Day five: He filled the seas with creatures and the land with birds, each reproducing their “kind.” Again, God declared it good. Day six: God made other animals and crowned His work by creating people “in His own image” (v. 27). God gave man and woman stewardship over His world and declared it all “very good.” Day seven: God finished His work and rested.

Why can’t science tell us how the universe was made? ______________________

What does “in the image of God” mean? ______________________

NOTE: Downloadable versions of items identified as CD are available in the Music and Print Extras Bundle. Items identified as DVD are available in the Digital Video Bundle.

Additional training for Bible Studies for Life: Kids available at ministrygrid.com/web/biblestudiesforlife.
PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

Spell It Out, “Spell-It-Out Letters” (Pack Item 3)
1. Distribute the mixed up “Spell It Out Letters” tiles to kids.
2. Instruct kids to find the letters that spell out the titles of the five books of Law in the Bible.
3. Direct kids to work together to spell each book name correctly.
4. Once book names are complete, guide kids to place titles in the correct order.
5. Encourage kids to look at the table of contents in their Bibles for each title’s correct spelling and the correct book order.
6. Instruct kids to find the first page of each book of the Law in their Bibles.
7. Challenge kids to a quick Bible drill using one verse from each book. If a kid has trouble locating a passage, suggest that a leader help her. Use these passages:
   - Genesis 1:27
   - Exodus 20:3
   - Leviticus 23:3
   - Numbers 6:24-26
   - Deuteronomy 6:4-5
8. Commend the kids for their work locating the passages.
   Option: “God Created the World” Coloring Page (CD)

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY

“Act Responsibly” (Pack Item 4)
1. Invite kids to play a pantomime game.
2. Allow volunteers to select an “Act Responsibly” card and pantomime the action on the card. Kids will try to guess what is being pantomimed.
3. After each pantomime is guessed correctly, lead the group to discuss whether that action is responsible or irresponsible.
4. Explain that when kids are given responsibility for something, it’s important for them to follow through and do their best. In today’s story, kids will discover something God wants all people to take responsibility for taking care of His creation.
5. Show the “God Created the World: Introduction” video.

Note: In Session 3, the Missions Emphasis mentions a storying cloth. If possible, order a Bible Storying Scarf ($10) from imbresources.org or by calling (800) 999-3113.
STUDY THE BIBLE

TELL THE BIBLE STORY

► “God’s Amazing World Title Banner” (Pack Item 1), Teaching Picture 1
• Draw attention to the title banner and explain that this month kids will learn about the beginnings of God’s amazing world.
• Show the Teaching Picture and explain that God created everything in the world in six days and rested on the seventh day.
• Open your Bible to Genesis 1 and tell the Bible story in your own words.

► Tell the Bible Story: God Created the World
In the beginning, there was only God. The earth had no form and was dark. God said, “Let there be light” and it was so. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” This was the first day.

Then God said, “Let the waters above and the waters below be separated.” And it was so! God called the expanse “sky.” This was the second day.

Next God said, “Let the seas and sky be filled with creatures.” Swimming creatures and birds of all kinds filled the waters and sky. God saw it was good. This was the third day.

On the fourth day, God spoke great lights into being: the sun, moon, and stars. God saw it was good.

Next God said, “Let the seas and sky be filled with creatures.” Swimming creatures and birds of all kinds filled the waters and sky. God saw it was good. This was the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God spoke and created animals of all kinds to live on the land. God then created people, both male and female, in His own image, in His likeness. God blessed the man and woman and instructed them to rule over the earth. God saw everything He made was very good.

God’s work was completed and He rested. God set apart the seventh day as holy because He rested from His work of creation.

—BASED ON GENESIS 1:1–2:3

REVIEW
• Point out the numbers on the wall and lead kids to 1. At each number, help the kids think about what God created on each day. On Day 7, guide kids to sit back down for “He rested.”
God wants people to take care of the world that He created.

• Use the Review Questions on page 94 to continue the review.
• Explain that God told the man and woman to rule over everything in the earth. Help kids understand that people are still appointed by God to take care of the world God created.
• Give kids 30 seconds to talk with a friend about ways people can take care of God’s creation. Invite volunteers to share their ideas with the group.
• Show the “God Created the World: Life Action” video.
• Comment that God created everything and wants people to take care of the world that He created.
• It is important to set aside a say to rest and worship God. Share that in Jewish culture, the Sabbath begins at sunset on Friday and continues until sunset on Saturday. Christians set apart Sunday as “the Lord’s day” to worship, honoring the resurrection of Christ (Matthew 28:1-6).

LEARN THE UNIT VERSE

“Genesis 1:1 Unit Verse” (Pack Item 2), “Your Amazing World” (CD, track 1)
• Direct attention to the Unit Verse poster.
• Instruct kids to stand. Comment that as you toss the paper plates, kids should retrieve them. Allow kids to collect and toss the plates while “Your Amazing World” plays.
• When the song is finished, encourage kids to collect all the plates and quickly put them in order.
• If time allows, collect the plates, mix them up and toss them one more time.

MISSIONS EMPHASIS

• Show kids the “West Africa Map.” Comment that this area is commonly described as “hot as a skillet” with daily high temperatures of 88 to 106 degrees year-round. Lead kids to use the outdoor thermometer or weather app to determine today’s temperature where you live.
• Encourage kids to pray for the missionaries and people in West Africa.

PRAY

• Invite kids to share prayer requests. Pray for each one and close by thanking God for all His creation.
• Direct kids to their Live It Out groups.
CHOICE 1

“Puzzled No More” (Kids Activity Page), Stick It Quick

1. Instruct kids to complete “Puzzled No More” on the Kids Activity Page.
2. Point out the poster board. Draw a large circle on it. Explain that the circle represents the earth.
3. Give each kid some blue and green sticky notes. Instruct kids to share ways to care for the earth. For each idea a kid has, he will place a sticky note inside the circle, representing the land and water that fills the earth.
4. Encourage kids to arrange the sticky notes to look like a globe showing oceans and continents. Share that more than 70 percent of the earth is water.
5. The goal is to think of enough different ideas to completely fill the circle with blue and green sticky notes.
6. When the circle is filled, explain that while the Bible doesn’t answer every question about creation, it clearly shows that God alone is responsible for His good creation.
7. Encourage kids to write on a sticky note one thing they can do this week to help care for the world God created. Suggest that kids take a sticky note and place it inside their Bibles to remind them.
8. Emphasize that God wants people to take care of the world He created.

CHOICE 2

“Puzzled No More” and “What Day?” (Kids Activity Page), Colorful Rocks

1. Instruct kids to complete “Puzzled No More” on the Kids Activity Page. Talk about ways kids can help take care of the world God created.
2. Direct kids to open their Bibles to the first chapter of Genesis. Guide kids to review “What Day?” on the Kids Activity Page and match each picture to the correct Scripture in Genesis 1.
3. Talk about what God made on each day of creation. Explain that while the Bible doesn’t answer every question about creation, it clearly shows that God alone is responsible for His good creation.
4. Set out rocks and permanent markers. Instruct kids to decorate their rocks as reminders that God created the world. They can write or draw whatever they like. Encourage kids to write God Created Everything! on their rocks.
5. While kids work, allow them to share any interesting or wacky facts they know about some of the amazing animals God created.
6. Encourage kids to place their decorated rocks along the front walks of their homes to remind people that God created the world, and He wants people to take care of it.

CHOICE 3
► “Puzzled No More” and “What Day?” (Kids Activity Page), “Your Amazing World, Instrumental” (CD, track 2), Interpretive Movement

1. Instruct kids to complete “Puzzled No More” on the Kids Activity Page. Talk about ways kids can help take care of the world God created.
3. Invite kids to act out the days of creation through interpretive movement. Explain that while you read aloud the account of creation, they will move their bodies in ways that represent that day of creation. To prepare, talk about each day of creation and guide the group to agree on movements that best interpret what was created that day.
4. When kids are ready, play “Your Amazing World” in the background while you read the Genesis account aloud. Kids will perform the selected movements as you read.
5. Emphasize that God wants people to take care of the world He made.

WRAP UP
• Gather kids to watch the “God Created the World: Wrap Up” video.
• Remind kids that the world didn’t begin by accident; rather it was perfectly planned out by God. God loves the world and wants people to take care of it.
• Lead a prayer, thanking God for creating such a wonderful world for all people to enjoy.
• Remind kids to give their One Conversation™ pages to their parents.
God created the world in six days. Each picture below represents the things God created on each day. Can you put them in the correct order?

UNIT VERSE
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
— GENESIS 1:1

PUZZLED NO MORE
Copy the words from the puzzle pieces onto the matching shapes. Then read the message.

How can kids take care of God’s world? Write your ideas and share them with a friend.

____  ____  ____
Parents, today your child learned that God created our amazing world and wants people care for His creation. What parts of God’s creation does your family most enjoy? How do you care for His creation?

**LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING**

God wants people to take responsibility for taking care of His creation.

**LIVE IT OUT**

Talk with your child about ways to take care of God’s creation. Discuss different areas—animals or plants—that she is most interested in. Work together to develop a strategy for a project your child can complete.

**DAILY BIBLE READING**

- **Sunday:** Isaiah 40:28
- **Monday:** Nehemiah 9:6
- **Tuesday:** Isaiah 45:18
- **Wednesday:** Psalm 148:5
- **Thursday:** Isaiah 40:26
- **Friday:** Colossians 1:16
- **Saturday:** Revelation 4:11

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**GOD CREATED THE WORLD**

**GENESIS 1:1–2:3**

**BIBLE VERSE:** Genesis 1:1

**LIFE POINT:** God wants people to take care of the world that He created.

In the beginning, there was only God. The earth had no form and was dark. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” This was the first day.

God said, “Let the waters above and the waters below be separated.” And it was so! God called the expanse “sky.” This was the second day.

Next God said, “Let the seas and sky be filled with creatures.” Swimming creatures and birds of all kinds filled the waters and sky on the third day.

On the fourth day, God spoke great lights into being: the sun, moon, and stars. God saw it was good.

Next God said, “Let the seas and sky be filled with creatures.” Swimming creatures and birds of all kinds filled the waters and sky on the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God spoke and created animals of all kinds to live on the land. God then created people, both male and female, in His own image. God blessed the man and woman and instructed them to rule over the earth. God saw everything He made was very good.

God's work was completed and He rested. God set apart the seventh day as holy because He rested from His work of creation.

**TAKE IT FURTHER**

Check out the “God Created the World” section of the Bible Studies For Life: Kids Family App.
GOD CREATED THE WORLD

GENESIS 1:1–2:3 • TEACHING PICTURE 1
GOD CREATED THE WORLD

In the beginning, there was only God. The earth had no form and was dark. God said, “Let there be light” and it was so. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” This was the first day.

Then God said, “Let the waters above and the waters below be separated.” And it was so! God called the expanse “sky.” This was the second day.

Next God said, “Let the waters be gathered together and let the dry land appear.” He simply spoke and it was so. God called the dry land “earth” and the water “seas.” He spoke into being plants and trees of all kinds. God saw that all of it was good. This was the third day.

On the fourth day, God spoke great lights into being: the sun, moon, and stars. God saw it was good.

Next God said, “Let the seas and sky be filled with creatures.” Swimming creatures and birds of all kinds filled the waters and sky. God saw it was good. This was the fifth day.

On the sixth day, God spoke and created animals of all kinds to live on the land. God then created people, both male and female, in His own image, in His likeness. God blessed the man and woman and instructed them to rule over the earth. God saw everything He made was very good.

God’s work was completed and He rested. God set apart the seventh day as holy because He rested from His work of creation.

— BASED ON GENESIS 1:1–2:3
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1** (HCSB)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

**Genesis 1:1** (NKJV)
IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1:1

(INV)

IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH.

GENESIS 1:1

(ESV)
Instructions: Separate the cards and use during Practice Bible Skills, Unit 1, Session 1.
Instructions: Separate the cards and use during Introductory Activity, Unit 1, Session 1.
Genesis 1:1 (HCSB)

Heavens and the Earth.

Instructions: Use this item as directed during Study the Bible in Unit 1, Session 1.
In the beginning God created the
Heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 (NIV)

Instructions: Use this item as directed during Study the Bible in Unit 1, Session 1.

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In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1

(ESV)

Heavens and the earth.

Instructions: Use this item as directed during Study the Bible in Unit 1, Session 1.

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IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE
Genesis 1:1
(NKJV)

Heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1
(NKJV)

Instructions: Use this item as directed during Study the Bible in Unit 1, Session 1.
God Created the World

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

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