


Upper Elementary


All scripture quotations are taken from the World English Bible, 2020.

Checklist

- ☐ clay
- ☐ tray
- ☐ cup
- ☐ water
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ yellow or white modeling dough

Intro:	Give children clay. Give them one minute to mold anything they want. Share what everyone made.	
	When did Jesus begin to exist? The answer isn't Christmas. He has always existed. That's the first thing we learn in one of the gospels.	
John 1:1-3	In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. Without Him, nothing was made that has been made.	
	There are many names used for Jesus: The Good Shepherd, The Messiah, The Word. We'll see as we read that God spoke the world into existence. The same three words that begin John also begin Genesis.	
Genesis 1:1	In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	
	These are the very first words of the Bible. They set up the whole story. What does it mean when it says "God created?" God the Father? The whole Trinity? John tells us that Jesus and God the Father created the world together. It's interesting that the name used for Jesus at creation is "The Word."	
Genesis 1:2	The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters.	
	Now we know the Holy Spirit was there, too! All three parts of the Trinity (1 God in 3 'persons') created the world.	
Clay	Show children a ball of clay. The earth was like a ball of clay. It had no form or shape. God could make anything He wanted out of it, just like you did with your clay.	
Clay	<div>Place clay in cup of water.</div> <div>But unlike your clay, the earth was surrounded by water, like this</div>	
Optional	Search for an online video of astronauts wringing out a washcloth in space (or demonstrating how water floats in space in some other way).	
	There was no atmosphere yet, so the water did not float off, just like the water around the washcloth in space (or like the cup of water around the clay ball).	
Genesis 1:3-5	God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw the light, and saw that it was good. God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness He called "night." There was evening and there was morning, the first day.	

Creation



Day 1

John 1:1-3
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him. Without Him, nothing was made that has been made.

Since when has Jesus existed?
What does John call Jesus?


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

Creation

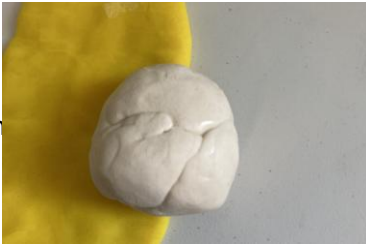

Genesis 1:2
The earth was formless and empty. Darkness was on the surface of the deep and God's Spirit was hovering over the surface of the waters.

Who else was at the creation?

The Trinity



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	The first thing God created was light. Remember, the Bible also says that God is light. The light was not coming from a star, but from God.
Revelation 22:5	There will be no night, and they need no lamp light or sun light; for the Lord God will illuminate them. They will reign forever and ever.
	At the end of the Bible, it says in heaven we will get our light in the same way. There will be no sun or stars, just light coming from God. We count days as beginning at sunrise, but the Bible counts days starting at sunset. Here, night (darkness), then day (light), makes the first whole day.
yellow or white play-doh	<p>Show children yellow or white modeling dough</p> <p>Roll it out flat.</p> <p>Place it behind half of the ball of clay in water to show day & night.</p> 
Genesis 1:6-8	God said, "Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." God made the expanse, and divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse "sky". There was evening and there was morning, a second day.
	Then, God made the atmosphere. Now, the water didn't just float around the earth anymore. Some of it was held down by gravity. But some of it was up in the clouds.
Clay	 <p>Show children a tray with a flat clay layer at the bottom, and cover it with 1/2 inch of water. Take cotton balls to soak some up, and place them on the side.</p>
Genesis 1:9-13	<p>God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together to one place, and let the dry land appear;" and it was so. God called the dry land "earth," and the gathering together of the waters He called "seas." God saw that it was good. God said, "Let the earth yield grass, herbs yielding seeds, and fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with their seeds in it, on the earth;" and it was so. The earth yielded grass, herbs yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit, with their seeds in it, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a third day.</p>

Did the light come from a star?

Revelation 22:5

There will be no night, and they need no lamp light or sun light; for the Lord God will illuminate them. They will reign forever and ever.

Where does Revelation say light will come from in the new heaven and earth?

Day 2

Genesis 1:6-8

God said, "Let there be an expanse in the middle of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." God made the expanse, and divided the waters which were under the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. God called the expanse "sky". There was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Earth's Atmosphere is the layer of gases that surround our planet. It is held in place by Earth's gravity. It is made of 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen (which is what we need to breathe), less than 1% each of carbon dioxide and other gases. When outside of Earth's atmosphere, astronauts must bring their own supply of oxygen.

Day 3

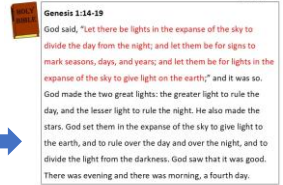
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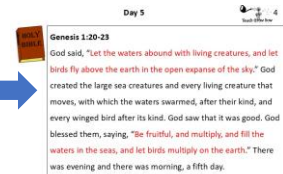
Sea level is an average level for the surface of Earth's oceans from which heights may be measured.



	So originally, the whole earth was a giant ocean. All the land was under the water. Even today, at the bottom of the oceans is land. Where the ocean and land meet is called sea level. Land below sea level is covered by water. Land above sea level is not covered by water. Making some land higher than other land might be how God separated water into oceans. Plants need two things to grow: water and light. Some plants can grow near sea level, but not too far below it, or they do not get enough light. Once there was dry (and shallow) land, plants could start growing.
Clay	Hand clay to children to make plants. Create low and high areas in the tray, so water separates into small pools. Place children's plants onto dry areas.
Genesis 1:14-19	God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs to mark seasons, days, and years; and let them be for lights in the expanse of the sky to give light on the earth;" and it was so. God made the two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the expanse of the sky to give light to the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. God saw that it was good. There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.
Clay	Carve the yellow or white modeling dough that was used to represent light into small balls and hand to each child to shape like a star.
	Now when light came each daytime, it wasn't just light coming from nowhere. It was coming from the sun. And at night, a little bit of that light reflected off the moon to give some light.
Optional	Cover a small mirror with tape so that only a crescent shape is left showing. Have it reflect the yellow modeling dough.
Genesis 1:20-23	God said, "Let the waters abound with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the sky." God created the large sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind. God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.
	It might seem strange that animals and the earth were made out of the same basic material, but even being very different, everything that exists is made of the same kind of stuff. Scientists call this stuff atoms. Atoms are what you and this building and our chairs are made from.



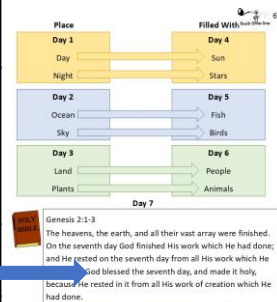
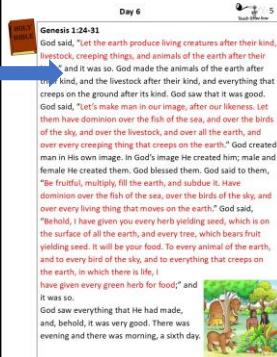
Humans can only see some kinds of light. Other animals can see different types of light. Dogs can see only shades of gray and some insects can see light from the ultraviolet part of the spectrum.



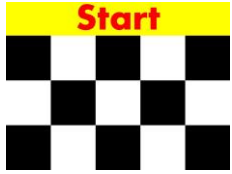
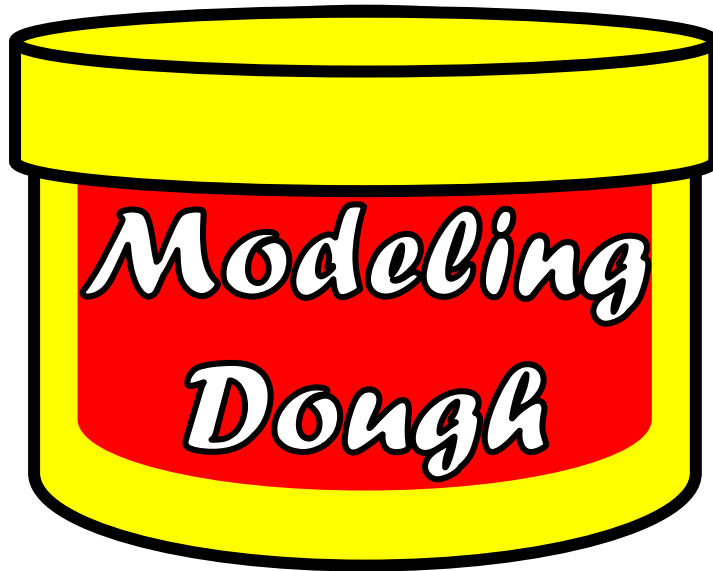
Atoms are the basic building blocks of matter that make up everyday objects. A desk, the air, even you are made up of atoms!



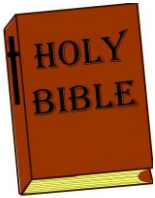
Clay	Take another piece of dry clay and ask each child to make a bird or sea animal.
Genesis 1:24-31	<p>God said, "Let the earth produce living creatures after their kind, livestock, creeping things, and animals of the earth after their kind;" and it was so. God made the animals of the earth after their kind, and the livestock after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind. God saw that it was good.</p> <p>God said, "Let's make man in Our image, after Our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the sky, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in his own image. In God's image he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them. God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." God said, "Behold, I have given you every herb yielding seed, which is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree, which bears fruit yielding seed. It will be your food. To every animal of the earth, and to every bird of the sky, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food;" and it was so.</p> <p>God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. There was evening and there was morning, a sixth day.</p>
	Last of all God made all the creatures who live on land. (Have children name land animals). And he made humans as the final touch. We would be special. We would be in charge of all the other creatures and responsible for taking good care of the earth.
Clay	Hand clay to children to make land animals while teacher makes man and woman.
Genesis 2:1-3	The heavens, the earth, and all their vast array were finished. On the seventh day God finished His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. God blessed the seventh day, and made it holy, because He rested in it from all His work of creation which He had done.
	What did God do on the seventh day? Rest! Today, we honor the seventh day of the week by coming to worship God together. God had created everything, and the people and animals that would rule over them.
	What did God say about everything He made? (It is good).
Closing:	Have children name their favorite animals, plants and landforms in creation.
Extra Time:	



Creation



Day 1



John 1:1-3

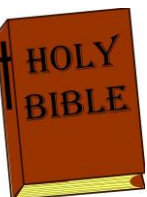
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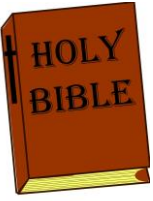
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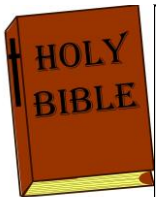
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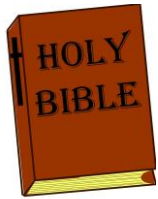
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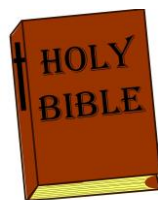


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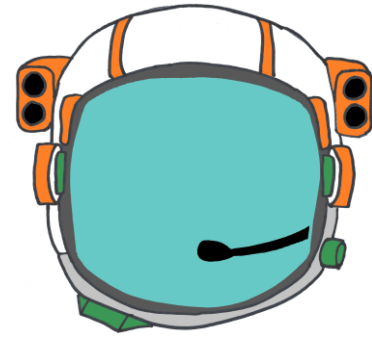


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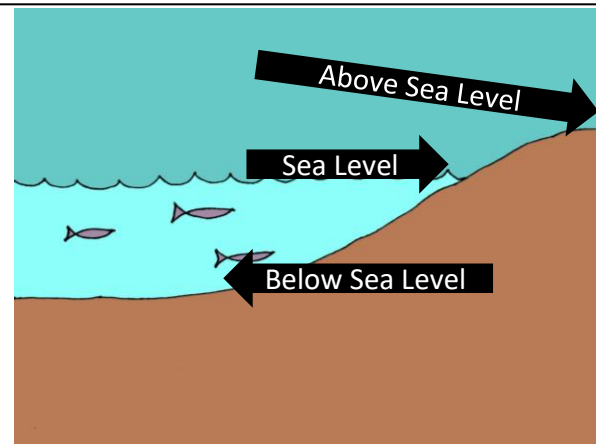


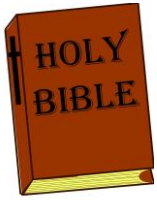
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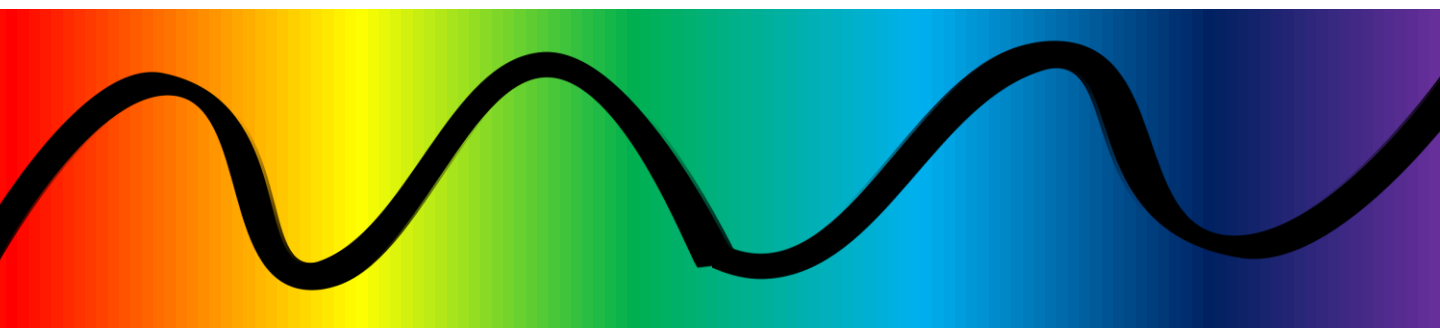
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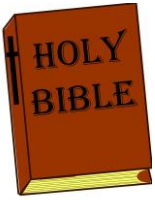
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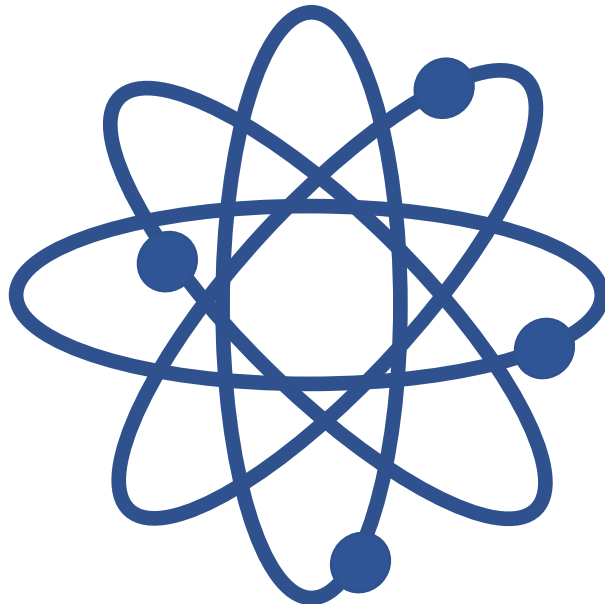


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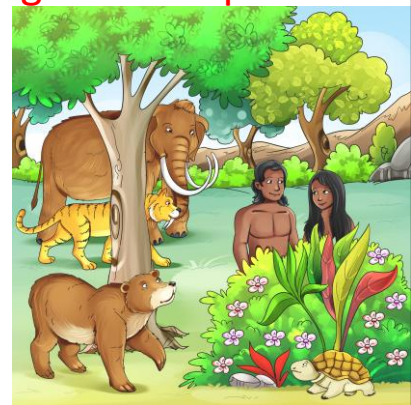


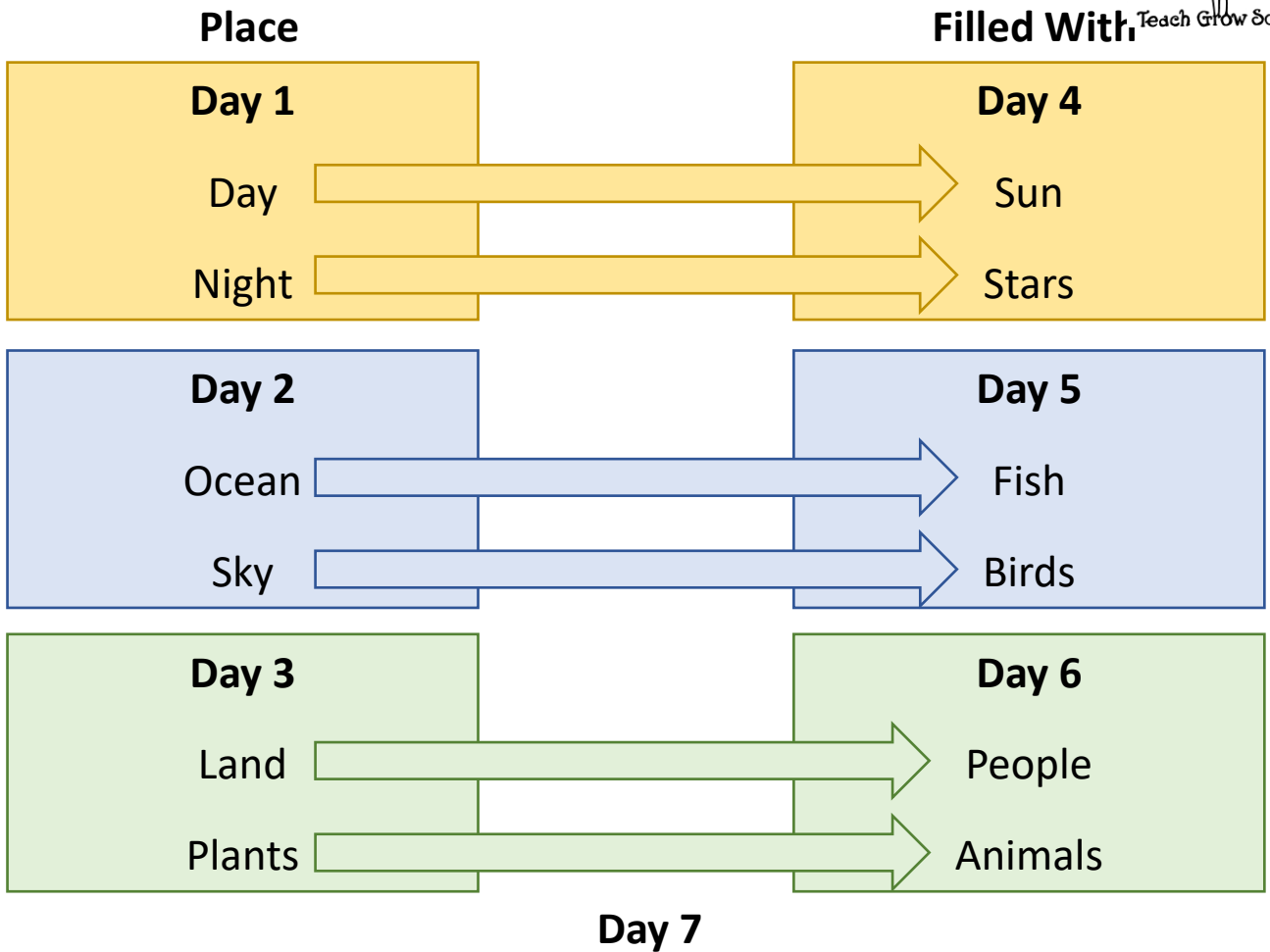
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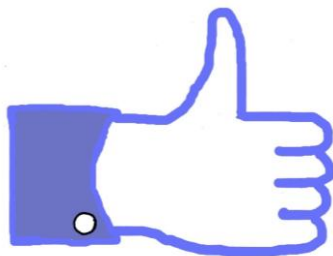
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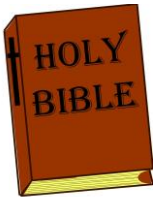


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Like





Creation

Draw a line to the correct day.

Cows

Moon

Eagles

Grass

Sheep

Adam

Land

Darkness
(night)

Skies

Birds

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Eve

Light (day)

Trees

Sun

Rest

Fish

Water

Flowers

Stars

Clouds