

# Creation and Creation Care for Kids

Stories, Crafts, and Activities  
from Multiple Faith Traditions



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# Getting Started

- “Progressive”
- The Way We Were
  - UU
  - Godly Play
  - Living Values



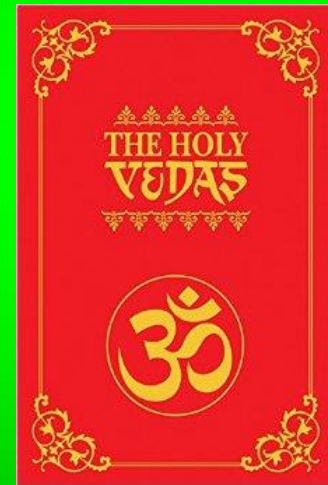
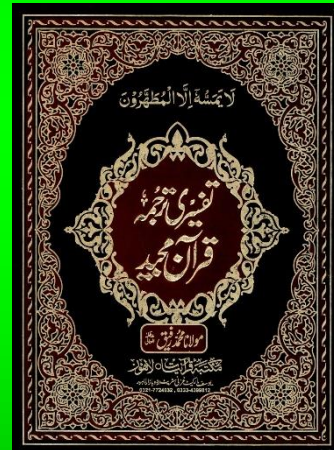
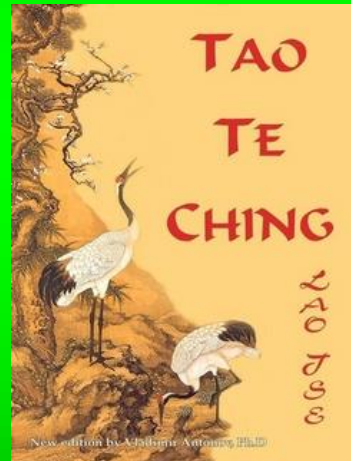
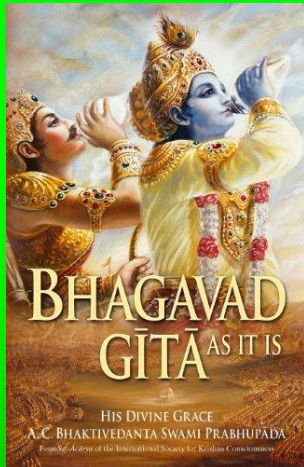
# Overall Approach

- Bible as foundational text
- Themes
  - Peace, Compassion, Embracing the Darkness, In the Desert, Dreamers, Awe & Wonder, Blessings & Gratitude, Creation Stories from Around the World
- Advent/Lent
- Age Groups
  - P-K, LE, UE, MS



# Sources

Sacred Texts: Qur'an, Bhagavad Gita, Tao Te Ching, Vedas, Dhammapada, Puranas



Stories

# Creation Stories

- Indigenous Tribes
  - Native American
  - Native African
  - Aboriginal/Maori
- Ancient/Polytheistic Traditions
  - Egypt
  - Greece
  - Nordic
- Qur'an



# Creation Care Stories

- Vedic/Hindu
- Buddhist
- Sufi
- Sikh



# How the World came to Be

## Part I (Genesis)

### Genesis 1:1-5

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

# How Grandmother Spider Stole the Sun

- Choctaw, Cherokee, Muskogee
- Story
- Crafts
- Activities





# How the Crow brought Light to the World

- Inuit, Haida
- Story
- Crafts
- Activities

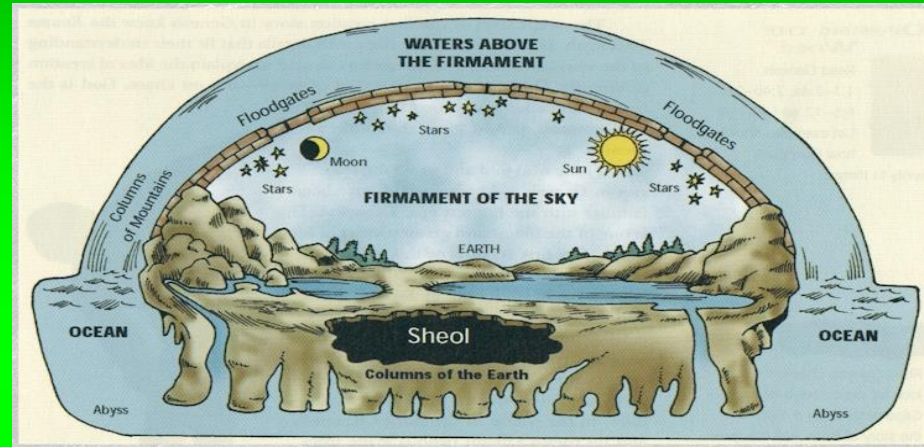


# How the World came to Be

## Genesis 1:7-13

<sup>7</sup>So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. <sup>8</sup>God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. <sup>9</sup>And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. <sup>10</sup>God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. <sup>11</sup>Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. <sup>12</sup>The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. <sup>13</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

- Put Days 2-3 Together
- Separating the Waters from the Waters



- Isis/Osiris
  - Ancient Egypt
  - Story
  - Activities
- Adamah

Adamah...V'shamayim  
Chom ha'aish...Tsilil ha'mayim  
Ani margish...zot b'gu-fi  
B'ruchi...b'nishmati

Heya, heya, heya, heya, heya, heya, heya, ho

Dry earth...Warm fire  
Cold wind...deep water  
I can feel it in my body,  
I can feel it in my soul

# How the World came to Be

## Genesis 1:14-19

<sup>14</sup>And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. <sup>19</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

- Persephone and Demeter
  - Ancient Greece
  - Story
  - Crafts/Activities
- Amaterasu
- Helios/Ra
- Native African
- Native American



# How the World came to Be

## Genesis 1:20-25

<sup>20</sup>And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” <sup>21</sup>So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. <sup>22</sup>God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” <sup>23</sup>And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. <sup>24</sup>And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. <sup>25</sup>God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

## **Native American**

- How Rabbit got Wisdom
- Why the Owl Lives away from the People

## **Aboriginal/Maori**

- How the Kangaroo got her Pouch
- Why Frogs can only Croak
- How the Crocodile got its Scales

## **Native African**

- Why the Hawk Catches Chickens
- Why the Hippopotamus Lives in the Water
- Why Monkeys Live in Trees
- Why the Turtle has a Hard Cover
- Why the Elephant is Large in Front and Small Behind



- Why the Praying Mantis has a Thin Belly
- How Crab got his Shell
- Why Tortoise is Bald
- Why the Lizard Bobs its Head
- How the Hyena's Fur became Striped
  
- How Anansi got his Bald Head
- Why Anansi is Very Thin in the Middle
- Why Anansi Hides in Dark Corners
- Why Anansi Eats Flies, Moths, and Mosquitoes

# How the World came to Be

## **Genesis 2: 7**

<sup>7</sup>then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

## ***Nuwa***

- Ancient China, Divine Feminine
- Story
- Crafts/Activities

# How the World came to Be

## Part II (Types of Stories)

- Ex Nihilo (Genesis, Aust. Aboriginal, Ra)
- Cosmic Egg (Phan-Ku)
- Dismemberment
  - Purushu/Paramatman
  - Ymir
- World Parent
  - Rangi and Papa ([link](#))
  - Maori Creation Story ([link](#))



# How the World came to Be

## Part II (Types of Stories cont'd.)

- Earth Diver
- Science
  - Big Bang Theory
  - Evolution



# Connections with Qur'an

## *Overall Story*

### **Surah 10:3 (Yusuf Ali translation)**

Verily your Lord is Allah, who created the heavens and the earth in six days, and is firmly established on the throne (of authority), regulating and governing all things. No intercessor (can plead with Him) except after His leave (hath been obtained). This is Allah your Lord; Him therefore serve ye: will ye not receive admonition?

## *Names of Allah: al-Musawwir*

### **Surah 59:24 (Pickthal translation)**

He is Allah, the Creator, the Shaper out of naught, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifieth Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise.

# Qur'an continued

## *Night and Day*

### **Surah 35:13 (Yusuf Ali translation)**

He merges Night into Day, and he merges Day into Night, and he has subjected the sun and the moon (to his Law): each one runs its course for a term appointed. Such is Allah your Lord: to Him belongs all Dominion. And those whom ye invoke besides Him have not the least power.

## *Plants and People*

### **Surah 55:10-14 (Shakir translation)**

<sup>10</sup>And the earth, He has set it for living creatures; <sup>11</sup>Therein is fruit and palms having sheathed clusters, <sup>12</sup>And the grain with (its) husk and fragrance. <sup>13</sup>Which then of the bounties of your Lord will you deny? <sup>14</sup>He created man from dry clay like earthen vessels,

# Qur'an continued

## *Day Seven*

### **Genesis 2:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. <sup>2</sup>And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. <sup>3</sup>So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

### **Surah 46: 33 (Muhammad Sarwar translation)**

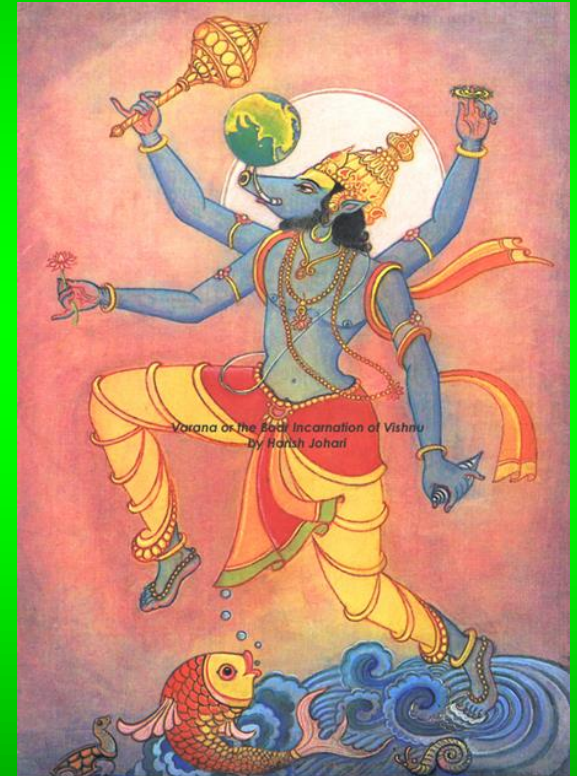
Have they not seen that God has created the heavens and the earth and that He experienced no fatigue in doing this. He has the power to bring the dead back to life. Certainly He has power over all things.

### **Surah 50:38 (Sahih International translation)**

And We did certainly create the heavens and earth and what is between them in six days, and there touched Us no weariness.

# Creation Care Stories

- Vedic/Hindu
  - Panchatantra
  - Deities
    - Varaha the Boar
- Buddhist
  - Jataka
    - Brave Little Parrot





# Jubilee! Community Church

- Founded in 1984
- Theology
  - Creation Spiritual a la Matthew Fox
  - Panentheism
  - Everyone is a mystic

- Practice – like other churches
  - opening song
  - gift of singing, poetry, or dance
  - scripture readings (OT, NT, other)
  - sharing the peace
  - sermon
  - passing the offering plate
  - closing song
  - benediction

- Practice – not like other churches
  - call in the directions
  - ring a Buddhist bowl
  - chant from dances of universal peace repertoire
  - sermons are interactive
  - no hymnal