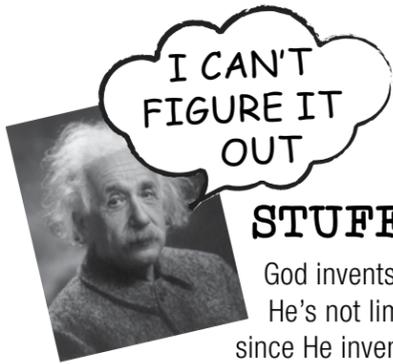


Creation

A MOMENT OF SCIENCE

The law of conservation of mass says that matter in the universe cannot be created or destroyed.



STUFF OUT OF NOTHING

God invents and creates everything in the universe. He's not limited by the law of conservation of mass, since He invented it. God speaks a command, and matter comes into existence. Boom! (Hebrews 11:3, paraphrased)

That's how the universe got here. God created galaxies and stars and planets and black holes and set them in their spots in space.

ARE WE GOOD?

After every day of creating, God looked at what had appeared and said it was good (except for the man and woman, which He called "very good"). If He said it was good, then it was good. He made a lush, green, warm, fertile, pure, bright, exciting world for us.

BATTERIES INCLUDED

God designed every creature from the chemical elements He had invented, and all of them were organisms with excellent function and great looks. But how did they come alive? God breathed life into every single one of them. From the "dust" He made bodies and then He added life and made them living beings.

THE HEAVENS

Clearly, God did not create heaven (His home) when He made the earth. Why does the Bible say He created the heavens and the earth? And what about all those stars that are billions of light years away? Genesis 1 and 2 are probably describing our solar system only, which has to be placed exactly as it is so that life can exist on earth.



WE ARE IN CHARGE

The Godhead created the man and the woman in their image. That means we are not God but we are His children and resemble Him in many ways.

God gave Adam and Eve (and therefore all people) His blessing and said: "Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth" (Genesis 1:28, CEV).

THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

Ever ask this question? Did the egg hatch the first chicken? Or did the chicken lay the first egg? "[God] made every kind of bird" (Genesis 1:21). Answer: the chicken came first. Now you know.



NEW BUILD OR REMODEL?

Some people believe that planet earth may have been here before the Creation week. "The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).

Others believe that God created our entire solar system and planet earth at the same time He created the animals and people. "In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth" (Exodus 20:11).

HOW WE GOT OUR EARTH

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit had a project:

Remodel this dark, watery planet into a home for a new type of being: human beings, a.k.a. peeps.

The Bible tells us that "in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them" (Exodus 20:11, NASB). These were literal 24-hour periods of time.

How do we know it was 24-hour days? Check out the direct comparison in Exodus 20:8-11 between creation days and regular weekdays.

The days went from one evening to the next evening. That's how we get the start of Sabbath at sundown Friday.



Here's how it went down:

-  **DAY 1** God separated light from darkness to make days.
-  **DAY 2** He "divided the waters," making an atmosphere of air and water vapor (a.k.a. the sky) above the waters.
-  **DAY 3** On this day He "gathered" the waters together to make land. He spoke and, bing, the land was covered with vegetation of all kinds.
-  **DAY 4** God arranged the sun, moon, and stars that would control the seasons and days and years.
-  **DAY 5** He filled the air with birds and the water with sea creatures.
-  **DAY 6** A big day: God made land creatures, including His pride and joy, the man and woman.
-  **DAY 7** It is *finito*—a perfect world. Time to rest!

WHY GOD CREATES

You might ask, why did God do this?

- For His glory: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1).
- Show His character: "Since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what was made" (Romans 1:20).
- To populate the world: "A man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28).
- Show His love and care: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life" (John 3:16, CEV).



WHAT WE GET FROM CREATION

- God made a beautiful world just for us. It's like someone built a beautiful castle for us and said, "Here, you can have it for free. Enjoy!"
- We all came from Adam and Eve, so we are all brothers and sisters.
- God gave us the responsibility of taking care of this world. That's our job.
- Marriage began at creation with the first couple. It is the foundation of our society.
- Our life is meaningful because God created it.
- All life is sacred because it comes from God.

And that's how we got here.