

KIDS RESOURCES

4-7



WORSHIP &
TEACHING

ECO  **CHURCH**
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT



ALLCHURCHES TRUST LIMITED®
OWNERS OF ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE GROUP

www.ecochurch.arocha.org.uk



CREATION

Key:



– Indoor Session



– Outdoor Session



GAME

Animal Hide and Seek

Materials:

- 3 pictures or models of different animals for each child to find.

Instructions:

- Pre-hide the pictures or models around the room.
- Ask the children to hunt for 3 animals – tell them once they have 3 to come and sit back in the middle of the room.
- Ask the children to name the animals they have found.



GAME

Quick creation spot

Instructions:

- Ask the children to spot objects as quickly as they can: start with obvious ones (e.g. door, tree, path) and then move onto objects from the 6 days of creation (i.e. light; sky; land, plants & sea; sun, moon & stars; fish & birds; animals & humans).
- Vary the spotting actions: Can they point to them? Can they run to them? Can they touch them?



BIBLE

Introduction

Today we are going to be learning about how God made the world: the planet and all the life that lives on it, including all the animals you have found and including us. And we are going to be finding out why God made it and what God thinks about it. Even though this story takes place a very, very long time ago, try to think about how it helps us live our lives now.

Bible reading: Creation Story (paraphrase of Genesis 1– 2:2)

Before time began, there was God: God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. There was nothing else and the Holy Spirit moved across space. God decided to make something wonderful to love and have friendship with.

First, God spoke and made a big bang! A powerful light appeared and planets flew through the universe.

Then God looked at Earth and made it spin – when it was dark, it was night–time and when it was light, it was daytime. At the end of day one, God said "Wow! This is good!"

Then God split the waters on the earth calling them sky and sea. At the end of day two, God said, "This is good!"

Then God made some bits of Earth dry, which were called land and other bits wet, which were called rivers and seas. On the land, God made trees and plants grow with their fruit and seeds. At the end of day three, God said, "This is good!"

Then God made the beautiful lights in the sky – the sun, the moon and the stars! God knew that these would help the Earth to have seasons – times to grow and times to rest. At the end of day four, God said, "This is good!"

Next, God started to bring creatures to life. Firstly, there were big and little fish and every kind of bird and God told them to fill the seas and the sky. At the end of day five, God said, "This is good!"

God then made all the land animals, including all the insects, and told them to fill the land. God also made the humans and made them to be like God – to love all that was made and to look after it as God does; to work with God to help everything to grow and live well. And at the end of day six, God looked at everything that had been made, and saw how it all worked together and God said, "It is very good!"

And on day 7, God rested.



BIBLE CONTINUED

Bible Discussion

- Why did God make the world?
- What does God think about creation?
- What do you like best in God's creation?
- How well do you think that we take care of God's world?
- When the earth gets spoiled, how do you think that makes God feel? How does it make you feel?
- How do you think that we could take better care of God's world?



ACTIVITY

Activity – Creation drama

Ask the children to create some actions for each day of creation – either as a whole group or put them into smaller groups with a specific day. Discuss what their actions are showing and how they reveal the “goodness” of creation. Then retell the creation story with the children doing the actions alongside. You might want to film the story (with all the relevant permissions) to show in a later church service.

Action – Creation collage

God loves all that has been made – from the seas and the mountains, to the birds and the fish. We are included in creation: can anyone remember what day were people created on? [pause] We are part of creation and were made with the animals on day six. We were blessed as a part of creation to help God take care of all that had been made. We are going to show how God loves all of creation by filling God's big heart with images of all that has been made.

Materials:

- A piece of A3 or A2 paper with a large heart drawn onto it.
- A selection of wildlife and nature magazines and calendars – containing pictures of birds, fish, mountains etc...
- Scissors and glue

Instructions:

- Cut out pictures from the magazines which cover each day of creation.
- Stick the picture into the heart – can they identify the day as they stick it on?



PRAY

Stand in a circle with the heart picture and all the animal pictures or models from the hide and seek in the middle.

Ask the children to hold one of the animals and think about what is special about that creature. Go around the circle and say a thank you prayer to God for that creature aloud – it could be whispered or shouted.

All pick up the heart picture full of creation and hold it in the middle of the circle.

Leader to lead the group in repeating prayers:

Thank you God that you hold all of creation in your hands.

Thank you God that you know all that you have made.

Thank you God that you give creation all that it needs.

Thank you God that you care for and love all that you have made.

Thank you God that you allow us to enjoy creation with you.

Thank you God that you have blessed us to help you care for all that you have made.



WORSHIP

Sung Worship

"Who made the twinkling stars?": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F43Qtzrhk5w>

"Creation Song" with Saddleback Kids: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=nWgC62KGsKM>



ACTIVITY

Activity – Minibeast Hunt

God cares for the very small creatures as well as the big creatures – can you name any small creatures which we might find around here. Because God made everything, everything tells us something about God – maybe it's beauty, it's creativity, it's cleverness...

- Look at a minibeast ID guide together and talk about where they might find the creatures (See extra resources for suggestions of guides).
- Go on a mini-beast hunt, either alone or in pairs, and tick off any minibeasts that you spot.
- Watch an insect for a minute and ask God what it tells you about Him.

Action – Minibeast Modelling

- Make a minibeast you have seen out of modelling clay/ plasticine, adding natural materials (such as stones, sticks, leaves etc...) from around to create the legs, eyes, ears, antenna etc...
- Write a label to name the minibeast and describe where it was seen in the church grounds.
- Make a display of the minibeast models at the front door of the church where all the church family can see them and enjoy them.



PRAY

Stand in a circle and all hold their minibeast model.

Go around the circle and ask the children to say a thank you prayer for the minibeast they are holding and the examples they have seen today: this could be shouted or whispered.

Leader to lead the group in repeating prayers:

Thank you God that you hold all of creation in your hands.

Thank you God that you know all that you have made.

Thank you God that you give creation all that it needs.

Thank you God that you care for and love all that you have made.

Thank you God that you allow us to enjoy creation with you.

Thank you God that you have blessed us to help you care for all that you have made.



GOING DEEPER

Mini-beast ID guides can be found on a variety of websites including:

The RSPB: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-teachers/schools-wild-challenge/activities/minibeast-safari/>

The Woodland Trust: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2019/04/mini-beast-hunt/>

