

How did the
Universe
begin?

Was it created
by God?



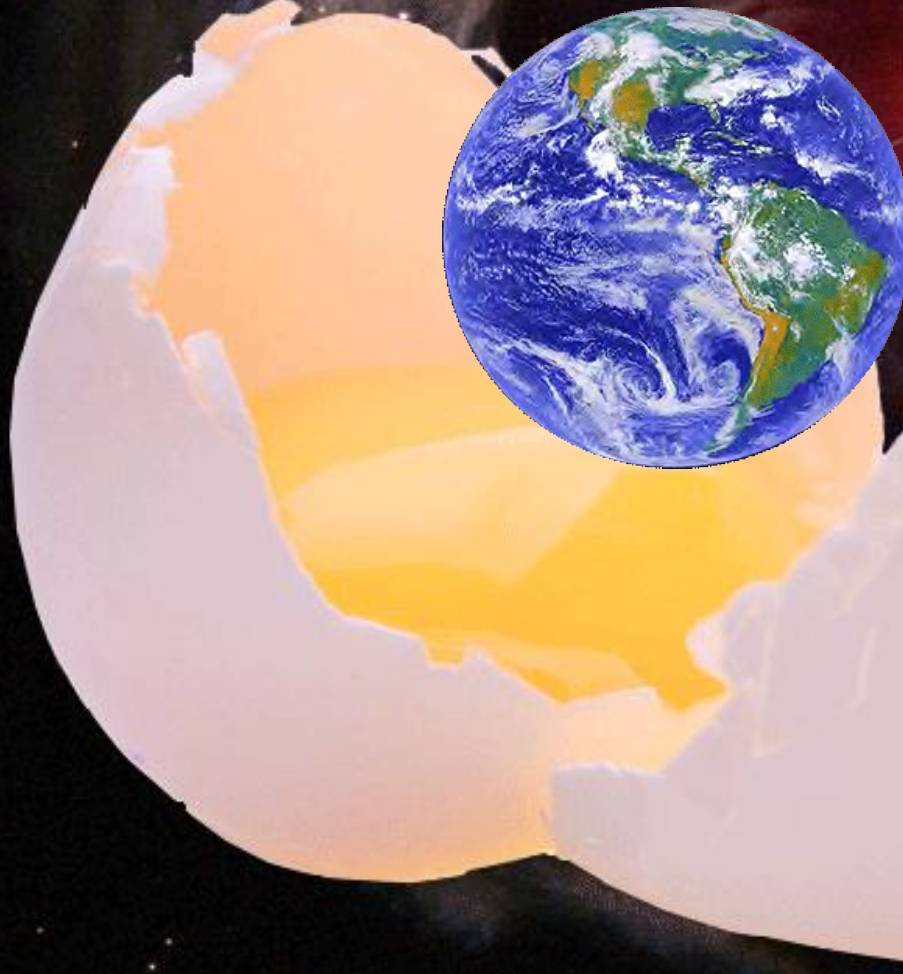
Do You Believe It?

If someone told you that the world was hatched from a cosmic egg, what would you think?

That they're crazy?

It's not as daft as it sounds!

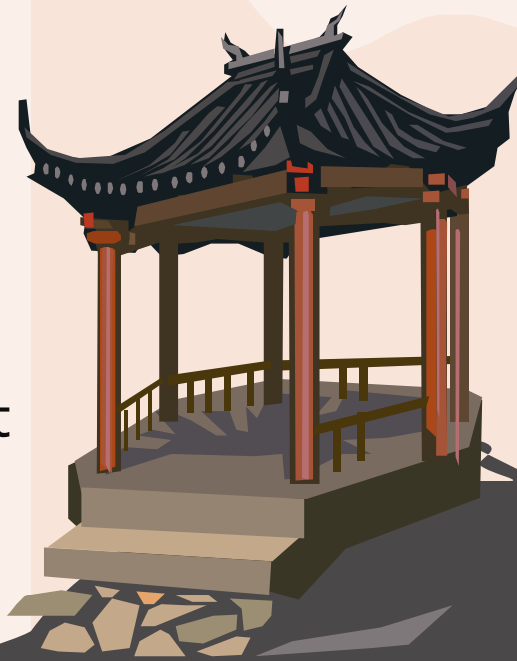
The yolk represents the sun and the white of the egg represents the moon.



How can you tell if it's true?

If you were born in China or India many years ago, this is what the adults would tell you – and guess what - you would probably have believed it too because all of your friends and family thought the same thing. Do you believe what people tell you?

When I don't know what to believe, I ask my mum



But in Egypt people believed something different. They believed that the stars first appeared when the sky god, Nut, arched over the ground.



What is an animal with two humps, which lives at the North Pole

A lost camel!





And here is one more
Creation story,
recognise this?



In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. On the second day He separated the sky from the Earth. On the third day, He created plants. On the fourth day, God made two great lamps, one to govern the day and a lesser lamp to govern the night. Day by day, the Earth took shape. Something new each day.



So with so many stories around, what should we believe? Generally, we believe what people tell us. We have to! We haven't got time to test every thing we're told in life!

If I asked you, "what is the tallest mountain in the world?" you'd probably say Everest ... But are you sure? Have you personally measured the heights of all the mountains in the world?

Before Mount Everest was discovered, what was the tallest mountain in the world?

It was still Everest, duh!



Luckily for us, these days lots of the ideas we are told have been checked out by scientists...



We know the height of Everest pretty exactly. Scientists put a radar transmitter on the top. Then with the help of an overhead satellite, they measured the height as 8850 metres.

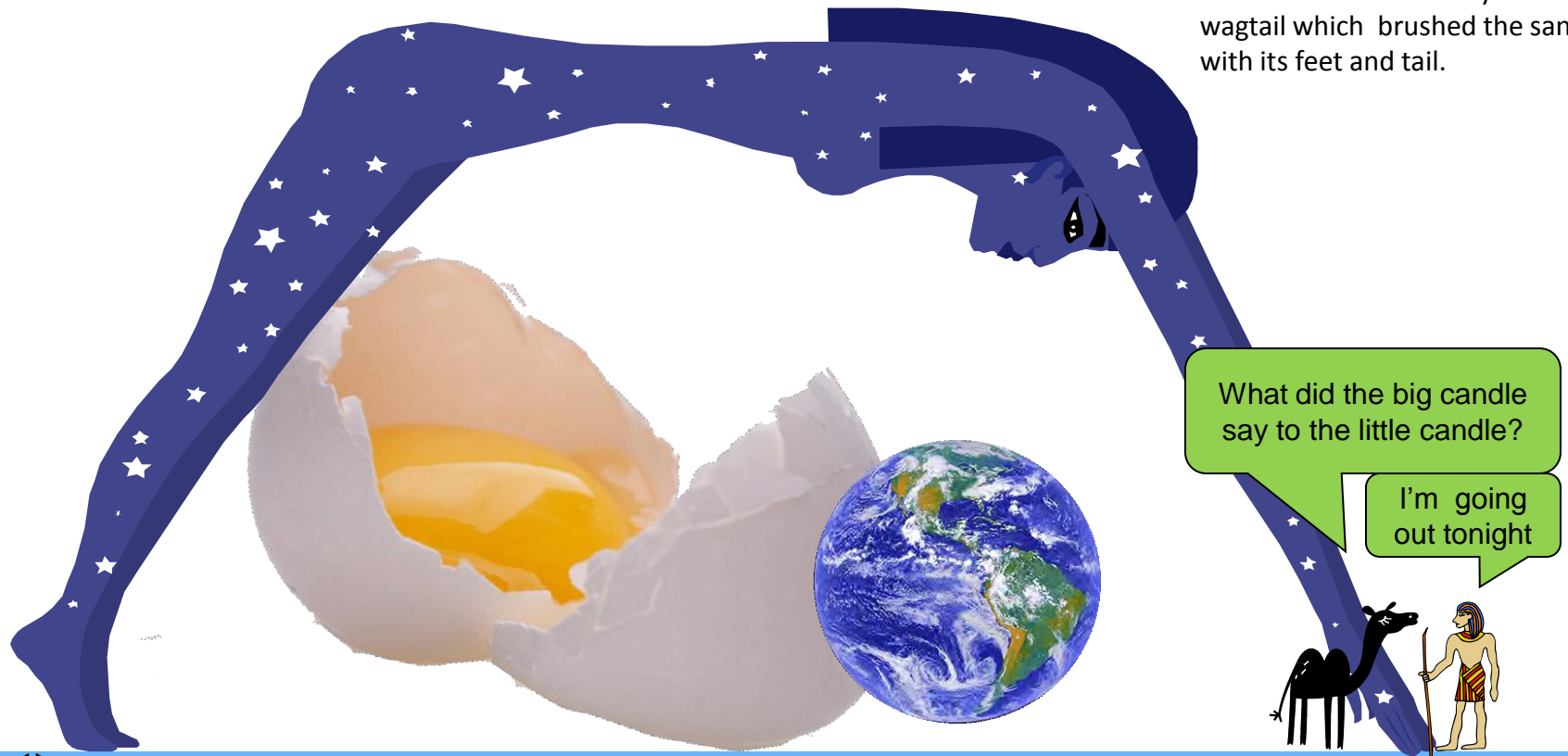
The Tudors believed that rubbing the head with a rope from a gallows could cure a headache. Now that's mad. Fortunately today you have to test a cure before you can sell it



And what about religious beliefs about how the universe began ... How do they measure up against science?



In Japan, one creation story said that the islands that people lived on were formed by a wagtail which brushed the sand with its feet and tail.



When comparing science with religion, you could take one of these approaches:

Literalism

You believe EVERYTHING about creation in religious scripture. When scientists say something different, you say they are mistaken.

Atheism

You believe NOTHING about creation from scripture. You only listen to what scientists tell us.

Open to both science and religion

You take ideas from both scripture and science. In general, science is your guide on how things work and religion tells you why everything is here.



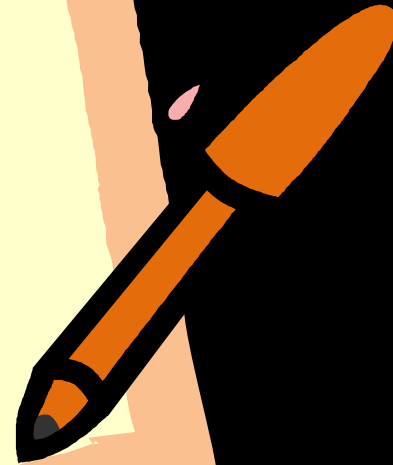
We know that some people believe science and religion can fit together. But how does that work in practice? And what happens when a religious text and science seem to disagree? Let's find out ... with the help of ...

THE CREATION SLEUTHS!



OK, sleuths ... Question 1:
In the Bible, it says that God
made the Universe in six days.

Can you work out a reason
why six days might not mean
six 24-hour days?





Hmm, why would the Bible say six days, if it doesn't mean six days?

Well, maybe it's fancy language.

How do you mean?

It's like when I sometimes say, "I'm so thirsty I could drink a swimming pool."
It's using words for effect, like a poem!

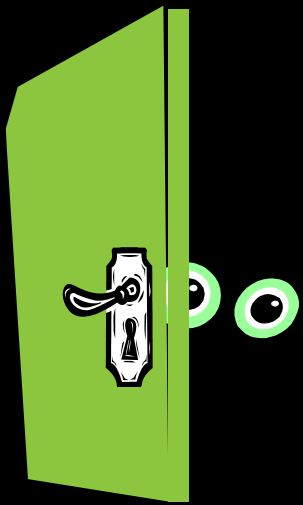


Quiz-Master's

response:

OK. That's a good start
but it's not the clue we're
looking for. Want to do a
bit more hunting?



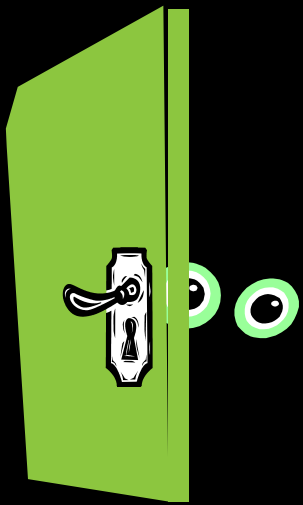


Bother, We need another clue that shows that the six days might not mean six actual days!



Aha! I've just noticed something. I'm looking at what it says happened on the first day and there's no Sun yet, not even by the end of the day. So clearly this isn't a day with a sunrise and a sunset ... since the Sun isn't yet in existence.





So what you're saying is that there's more to this Creation story than meets the eye



Exactly! It's got several layers of meaning ... I wonder what people will make of it in the future?



Question 2:

Good work sleuths!

Some people say that the Bible and science tell us different things. On the next page, you'll see how one Christian understands the religious and scientific accounts, side by side.

Have a read, then answer the questions.



SCIENCE TELLS ME ...

A view from
a Christian and a scientist

THE BIBLE TELLS ME ...

Science tells me how the universe began. It says the Universe started with a Big Bang and then expanded.

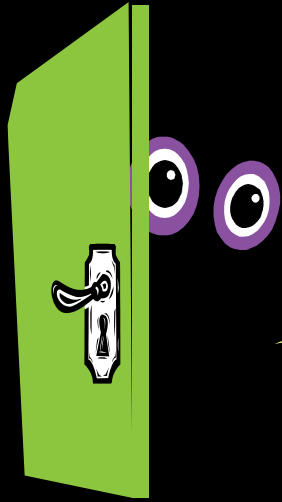
It also says how life began from chemicals in the primordial soup.

The Bible tells me why the Universe exists. It explains that God planned for us to be here and for us to have a personal relationship with Him and to take care of the Earth. This is God's revealed truth.

Questions:

- a) What is primordial soup?
- b) What is meant by revealed truth?





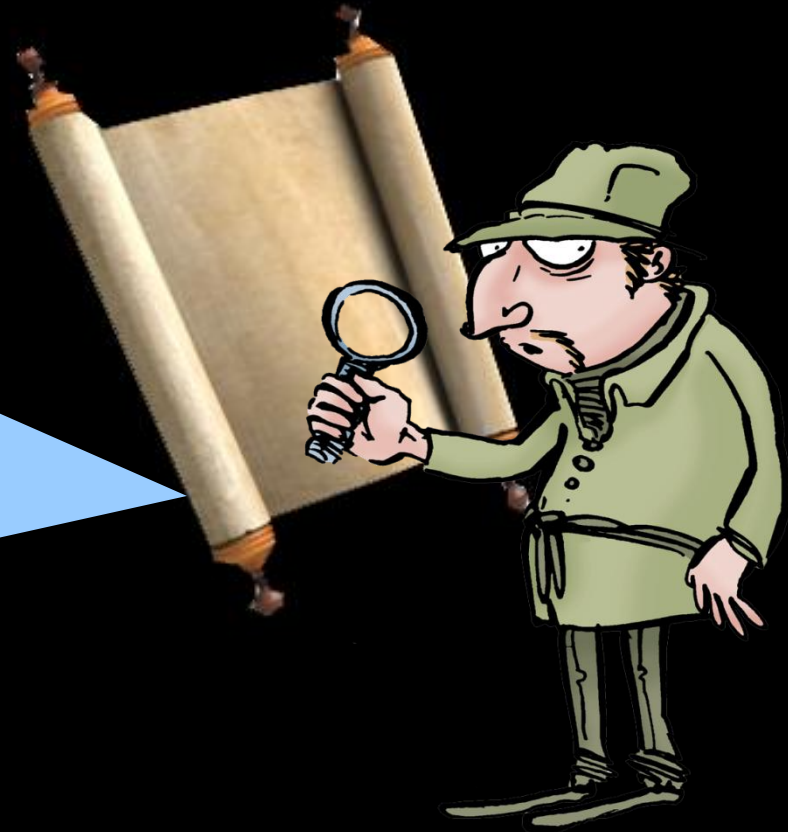
Where have they gone?



One of them said something
about finding a time machine ...
Sounds ominous!

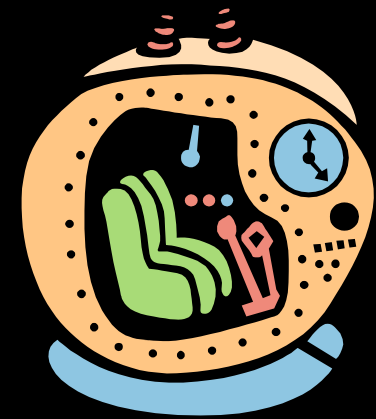


I have found the meaning of 'revealed truth'. It means that God shared his thoughts with humans and they wrote out in their own words what He'd said.





Great. And I've found the primordial soup. I'm standing in it in fact. It's a rock pool on Earth millions of years ago and apparently, it's where life began!



Case
solved!



And now you've finished
this section!

Close the window and see
what's next.



OK, have a break first!!

