

Creation

Day #1 of Creation: Light and Darkness
(Genesis 1:1-5)

INTRODUCTION

Shake up a bag full of Leggos, spill them out, and ask, "What can you make out of these?" (*Allow responses.*) Then shake up an empty bag, spill it out and ask, "What can you make out of this?" *You can't make anything out of nothing! Only God can do that!*

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

The book of Genesis tells the story of how God created the universe out of nothing. The word *Genesis* means *beginnings*, and the book of Genesis explains the beginnings of the universe, earth, people, sin, and of God's plan of salvation.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, tune our ears so that we might learn more about You this morning. You are such an awesome God! Draw us a little closer to You as we learn about the wonderful way You made the world we live in. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." (John 8:12).

LESSON

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Long ago, before God created the heavens and the earth, there was nothing. There was no land, no trees or flowers or animals or even people; there was only God.

God has always lived; He is eternal. That means God had no beginning and He will have no end. He told Moses His name is *AI AM*" because He *is* and always *was* and always *shall be*.

So, at first there was nothing. Then God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:2

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

There was no shape to the world and there was nothing in it, on it, or around it. The world was dark, just like night, except there were no stars or a moon. There was only deep, deep water all around and it was totally dark.

The verse says, *The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*. God was present everywhere at the time of creation, just like He is today. God never changes, He is always the same. The idea here of God hovering over the waters is similar to a mother bird caring for and protecting her young. God is always close to us caring for and protecting us, like a mother bird.

At first there was only darkness. So, after God created the heavens and the earth the next thing God needed to create was light. And because God is all-powerful, all He needed to do was speak it into existence.

Genesis 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

God just commanded that light "be" and there was light. Isn't God's word powerful!

We know from verse 14 that God didn't create the sun, moon, or stars until the 4th day of creation. What do you think made it light until then? (*God Himself!*)

Isaiah 60:19

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, Nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; But the LORD will be to you an everlasting light, And your God your glory.

At the end of time, the bible tells us that God will create a new heaven and a new earth and that we will no longer need the sun or moon or stars because He will be an everlasting light! That is why Jesus said that He was the light of the world. (Review the memory verse.)

Genesis 1:4

God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

He was well pleased with the work He did on that first day of creation.

Genesis 1:5

God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

God knew that people would need time to sleep and rest; that we could not be awake all the time. He was thinking and planning ahead for our good health. That first day of creation had one daytime period and one nighttime period, just like we have everyday, too.

Closing Prayer

Lord, it is a wonder that You created a world that is just right for people to live in. You made air that we can breathe, You placed the sun so that it is just the right temperature for us here on earth and You've given us food and water so that we might live. Today we want to thank You for giving us day and night so that we have time to rest as well as work and play. You are a marvelous God, thank You for making for us such a nice place to live. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

LEARNING CENTERS

Imagination Station

(Craft Center)

Choose from the following craft ideas:

1. Modeling Clay

Create something that God made out of modeling clay or draw a picture of something God created. Talk about how it is impossible for you to make something out of nothing like God did. Tell them that God made the material out of which the clay was made. Talk about the properties of the clay.

Modeling Clay Dough Recipe:

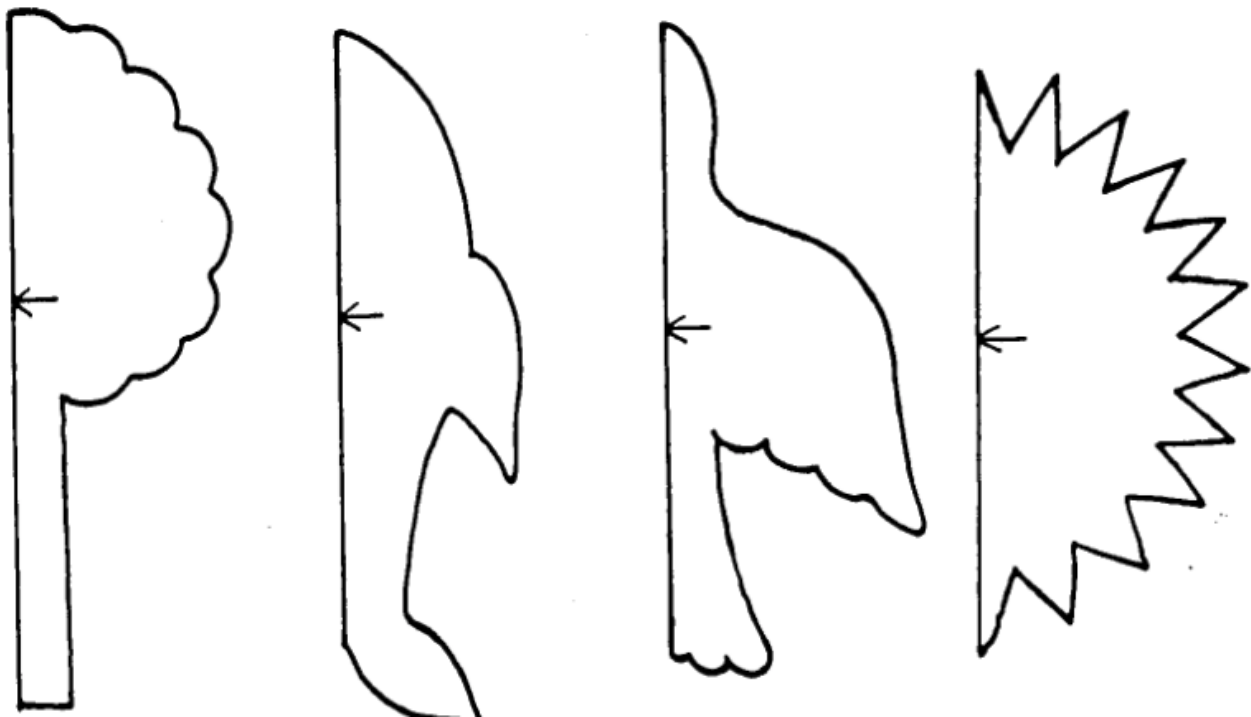
Materials

- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup salt
- 1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 cup water
- bowl
- waxed paper
- food coloring

Procedure

Mix 1cup flour, ½ cup salt, 1 tablespoon vegetable oil, and 1 cup water together in a big bowl until the mixture becomes dough-like. Place a sheet of waxed paper on your work surface, and sprinkle it with some flour. Knead the clay dough into a ball on the floured waxed paper. Divide the ball into separate lumps of clay, and add some food coloring to each. Knead each lump well again. Now you can sculpt the clay dough into any shape you want. When you're done sculpting, you can leave your clay creations out to air dry, or store the clay in separate plastic bags or airtight containers. Keep them in the refrigerator until the next time you play.

2. Positive/Negative Cutouts

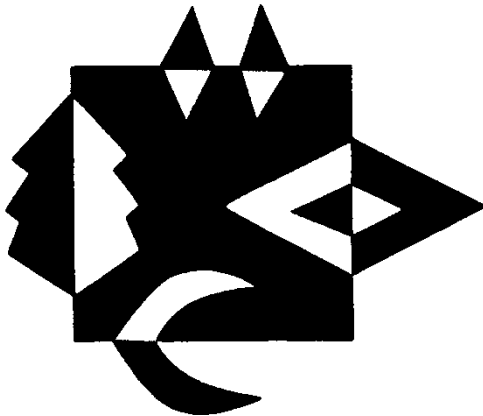
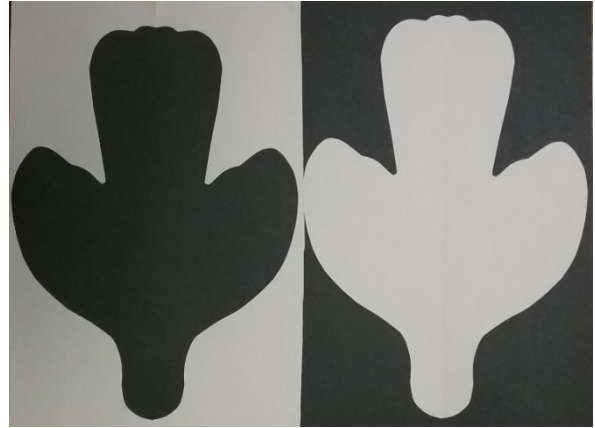


Materials

- White and black construction paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Craft glue

Procedure

1. Cut white construction paper into half.
2. Fold each piece in half again lengthwise.
3. Choose one of the given patterns, trace the pattern with the arrow along the fold and cut it out.
4. Keep the piece you cut out as well as the piece that you cut it out from (i.e., what was left over after you cut out your pattern.)
5. Glue the two pieces side by side onto a full piece of black construction paper.
6. Write today's Memory Verse on your picture, "God said, 'Let there be light.'" (Gen 1:3).

**Alternate Procedure**

Cut a 4x4-inch square from construction paper. Cut a shape into each side, saving the cutout pieces. Place the cut square and the cutouts on another piece of contrasting colored construction paper. Arrange the cutouts in a mirror image of the square's side shapes. After you've positioned the pieces, glue your design to the construction paper background.

Fun House

(Game Center)

Creation Beanbag Toss

Make seven large circle targets (see Lesson 1 for graphic ideas). Decorate each to depict a day of creation. Divide the children into two teams and ask them questions about today's lesson (see below). If a team gets a correct answer, one child gets to toss a beanbag for points. Make the points 1,000 times the # of the day of creation. For example, if the bag lands on Day #5 the team gets 5,000 points. Give prizes for all.

Review Questions

1. Who is the only One who can make something out of nothing? (God)
2. What does the word Genesis mean? (Beginnings)
3. What book in the Bible explains the beginnings of the universe, earth, people, sin, and of God's plan of salvation? (Genesis)
4. What was there before God created the heavens and the earth? (Nothing but God)
5. Why is God like a circle? (Because He has no beginning and no end)
6. Why did God tell Moses that His name is "I AM?" (Because He is and always was and always shall be)
7. What was the earth like when God first created it? (Verse two says that it was formless and empty. There was no shape to the world and nothing was in it, on it, or around it.)
8. Did God the Father, Jesus or the Holy Spirit create the world? (There is only one God. He is three persons.)
9. Where was the Spirit of God during creation? (Verse two says He was hovering over the waters.)
10. What did God create after He made the heavens and the earth? (Light)
11. How did God create the light? (Verse three tells us that all He needed to do was say, "Let there be light" and there was light.)

12. Since God didn't create the sun, moon or stars until the fourth day of creation, what made it light until then? (God Himself!)
13. What did God say when He saw the light? (That it was good)
14. Why do you think that God created day and night? (He knew that people would need time to sleep and rest; that we couldn't be awake all the time.)

God's Weird and Wonderful World

(Science Center)

Choose from the Following Science-Lab Ideas:

1. What Color is Light?

When we see colors, we are seeing light of different wavelengths. Even though sunlight appears to be colorless, it is actually a mixture of many colors or wavelengths of light. You can see some of these colors as a rainbow. As sunlight is reflected through raindrops, it is bent. Light with long wavelengths, like red, is bent more than light with short wavelengths, like violet. You can separate sunlight into a rainbow or spectrum much like the famous scientist Sir Isaac Newton did some 300 years ago.



What You Need

- A straight-sided, clear, glass tumbler
- A piece of card with a 2-inch-long vertical slit
- A sheet of white paper
- Adhesive tape
- A window ledge or table beside the window

What You Need to Do

1. Fill the glass with water and tape the card on so that the slit is against one side of the glass.
2. Place the glass onto a piece of white paper, close to a window, on a wide ledge or table. Make sure the card with the slit is facing the window.

What Do You See?

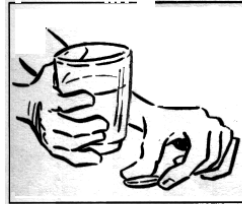
Sunlight passing through the slit is bent by the water in the glass. This gives you the awesome *spectrum* on the

paper. Just like the rainbow in the sky, the water bends the white light pouring in the window into the fan of colors that you see (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet).

2. You Can't See a Penny Through a Glass of Water!

What You Need

- A plain clear glass filled with water
- A penny
- A saucer or small piece of paper



What You Need to Do

Place the glass of water on top of the penny and cover the top of the glass with the saucer or paper.

What Do You See?

Don't strain your eyes. You won't see the penny. Recall how we said light rays are bent by going through things like water? This is such a situation. The only way you can see the penny is by looking straight down, and the saucer prevents you from doing that!



For another strange illusion, take the saucer away and look at the surface of the water from the side. The penny seems to be on top of the water.

This bending of light is called *refraction*. Another example can be seen by placing a pencil in a half-full clear glass of water. When you stand back and look, the pencil seems broken. Why? Well, the only reason you see the pencil at all is because light bounces off it into your eyes. But light is coming from two places: the pencil in the water and the pencil outside the water. There is no problem with the light coming from the pencil outside the water. As expected, it follows the rules and travels in a straight line. But the light coming from the pencil (and penny) in the water follows another rule as it passes through the water to the air on its way to your eyes: the rule of *refraction*. When the light hits the tiny molecules making up the water and glass, it bounces and changes direction just a bit. It's refracted.

Among other things, refraction explains why a fish looks bigger under water and why objects can appear to be three feet deep when they are really four. Refraction also gives you a good reason never to dive into a pool without knowing its actual depth.

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