

**When did time begin? Genesis 1:1**

**How did God create everything from nothing? Hebrews 11:3**

**Where is the Garden of Eden? Genesis 2:10–14**

**When God created the earth, were the trees fully grown, or were they baby trees? Genesis 1:12**

**Why did God make a week seven days long? Exodus 20:11**

**When were the other planets created? Genesis 1:16, 1:19**

**Why did God allow some creatures to go extinct? Genesis 2:17**

**Did Noah take dinosaurs on the Ark? Genesis 6:19**

**How did all the dinosaurs fit on the Ark? Genesis 6:15**

*Print one copy and cut the questions into strips. Fold them and place them in a cup or container for students to draw out.*

# Big Questions

## Answer Key

Print this answer key for your use in class. This will be the Come On In activity for Lesson 1–7.

### 1. When did time begin? Genesis 1:1

*“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).*

Time began when God started to create everything in the whole universe. He did this “in the beginning” of the Creation Week. According to the Bible, that was about 6,000 years ago. Before then, there were no days or weeks or years. It is hard for us to understand, but time, just like everything else God created, including you and me, had a beginning, and it wasn’t very long ago! God, on the other hand, is infinite. He has always existed, and He is not bound to time, like we are. In fact, the Bible says that to God a day can be like 1,000 years and 1,000 years can be just like a day. Time just doesn’t mean the same thing to God as it does to us. He’s “outside” of it. We do know, however that He created time on the first day of creation.

### 2. How did God create everything from nothing? 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” (Hebrews 11:3).*

We serve a mighty and powerful God! He created everything—the whole universe—in just six days! And in our Bible verse we learn that the things we see were made from things not seen, or invisible things. In other words, there was nothing (or maybe we should say “not even nothing”) when God began to create.

If you read the first chapter of Genesis, you will see the words “God said” eight times. This explains how God created by His great power. For example, can you imagine how amazing it must have been when God said, “Let there be lights in the heavens?” The stars, sun, and moon appeared, just as God had planned. God needed only to speak and everything was created. He truly is worthy of our praise!

### 3. Where is the Garden of Eden? Genesis 2:10–14

*“A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters. The name of the first is Pishon. . . . The name of the second river is the Gihon. . . . The name of the third river is the Tigris. . . . And the fourth river is the Euphrates” (Genesis 2:10–14 NIV).*

*Actually, we have absolutely no idea where the Garden of Eden was located. The Bible verse tells us about the Garden of Eden and it even mentions four rivers around the garden. But there are only two rivers today that have the same names as those where the Garden of Eden was located, the Tigris and the Euphrates; the rest of the description doesn’t match. So the Garden of Eden wasn’t there.*

*Also, the worldwide Flood of Noah’s day would have destroyed everything on the earth, including the Garden of Eden. So why do those two rivers have the same names? Well, I think Noah, or someone in his family, named the rivers. And he used names of rivers that existed before the Flood—names he already knew. Maybe he wanted to be sure that the people would not forget the days before the Flood, and to remind them they must honor and obey God.*

### 4. When God created the earth, were the trees fully grown, or were they baby trees? If they were full grown, did they have growth rings? Genesis 1:12

*“And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:12).*

We know by our Bible verse that the trees in the garden provided fruit for food. And we know that Adam and Eve could eat the fruit from all the trees except one. They didn’t need to wait for years for the trees to grow big enough to produce fruit, did they?

It seems that God created the trees to sprout, grow, and bear fruit all in one day. I do believe that the trees had growth rings, for a couple of reasons. First, they were fully grown trees to start with, and most grown trees have growth rings. Second, the growth rings of many trees are actually part of the structure of the tree and support the tree. Some trees would need those growth rings to stand tall and produce fruit for Adam and Eve. So the growth rings were part of what made these trees perfect and very good, like the rest of God’s creation.

### 5. Why did God make a week seven days long? Exodus 20:11

*“For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it” (Exodus 20:11).*

Our Bible verse tells us why God made the week seven days long. Let me explain. He made the seven-day week just for us. He created everything in six days and rested on the seventh day, right? Well, God could have made the entire universe in one split second because He is all-powerful and mighty. But He was setting a pattern for us to follow.

If we just kept on working every single day, we would get very tired and probably get sick. God was showing us that we can work six days, but then we need to rest for one day. Remember that He didn't need to take that long to create everything (and He didn't need to rest). Six days is actually a very long time for God. The seven-day week is for us!

## 6. When were the other planets created?

### Genesis 1:16, 1:19

"Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. . . . So the evening and the morning were the fourth day" (Genesis 1:16, 1:19).

Our Bible verse tells us that God made the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day. Although the Bible doesn't specifically say "planets," it is correct to say that the Hebrew word translated "star" included the planets that God spoke into existence on that great day!

God also tells us that He hung these "lights" in the heavens for signs, seasons, days, and years. And another fun fact we find, as we read Genesis 1, is that the earth is actually three days older than all the stars and planets, since the earth was created on Day One!

## 7. Why did God allow some creatures to go extinct?

### Genesis 2:17

". . . but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17).

We know that some animals are extinct and some are on the endangered list, meaning they may soon become extinct. We need to understand that it is not God's fault the animals are going extinct. It's actually our fault because we sinned against God. When God first created the universe, He said it was all "very good." It was a place with no death or suffering anywhere! But Adam and Eve's disobedience to God brought death into the world—and the whole universe began to change because of God's judgment on our sin.

This was a very sad day because the very good universe now began to run down. Sin changed everything. With it came death, sickness, and suffering. Changes occurred in the weather, the food

supply, the behavior of people, and the behavior of animals. These (and other) changes have contributed to why many animals have gone extinct.

But remember the good news! God promises to one day restore everything back to a perfect world where animals will no longer go extinct and people will no longer sin against God's commands.

## 8. Did Noah take dinosaurs on the Ark?

### Genesis 6:19

"And of every living thing of all flesh you shall bring two of every sort into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female" (Genesis 6:19).

Can you even imagine it? Dinosaurs on the Ark? It is so very cool to think about. And we can be sure they were there because the Bible tells us that every kind of air-breathing, land-dwelling animal went aboard. Now, Noah did not know of the word dinosaur back then. In fact, that word was made up in 1841 to describe land animal fossils found that had very unique bone structures, uncommon to other animals. Dinosaur literally means "Terrible Lizard."

But we do know what God tells us—that all the kinds of land animals were on the Ark. Well, that just had to include the dinosaur kinds, too!

## 9. How did all the dinosaurs fit on the Ark?

### Genesis 6:15

"And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits" (Genesis 6:15).

First of all, God told Noah how big to make the Ark (see our verse). You might ask, what is a cubit? I believe the cubit that was used was about 20 inches long . . . and that would make the Ark as long as one and a half football fields—about 510 feet (155 meters)—as tall as a 4-story building—about 45 feet (14 meters)—and about 85 feet (23 meters) wide! It was really big! Now another thing is that although there are hundreds of names of dinosaurs, there were probably only about 50 actual kinds. So, there may have only been a total of 100 dinosaurs on the Ark. That still seems like a lot, doesn't it?

But, did you know that most dinosaurs were actually quite small? In fact, the average size of a dinosaur is the size of a sheep. (Some were as small as chickens!) And for the few dinosaurs that grew large, it would make sense that God would send smaller young adults. You know, after looking at all of these facts, I think there was plenty of room on the Ark for the dinosaurs and all the other animals God sent to survive the Flood.