



How Old Is the Earth?

6

Key Themes

- The Bible records the true history of mankind and the universe.
- God's Word must be the absolute authority.

Key Passages

- Genesis 5:5, 5:8, 9:29

Lesson Focus

- The earth is about 6,000 years old!



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color a picture of one of God's creations on the God Made . . . Animals coloring sheet.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the prayer page of the Flip Chart, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear that the Bible tells us the earth is only about 6,000 years old, not millions!

Song—Students will review the memory verse through singing and playing instruments. Then they will sing about creation in the songs "God Made Dinos!" and "God Created!"



Activity 1: Million-Year Yarn

Using a length of yarn, students will compare how "long" a million years is to 6,000 years.



Activity 2: Earth Birthday Cards

Students will decorate birthday cards to remind them that the earth has had only about 6,000 "birthdays."



Memory Verse Review/Snack

Children will review the memory verse while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



COME ON IN

- Print one copy of the God Made . . . Animals coloring sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- God Made . . . Animals coloring sheet for each student
- Crayons



CIRCLE TIME

- Bring a stuffed animal for prayer time.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Stuffed animal
- Lesson Flip Chart
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MILLION-YEAR YARN

- Gather materials for activity.

- Length of yarn, long enough to stretch the length of the classroom
- Scissors
- Masking tape or marker to mark the yarn



EARTH BIRTHDAY CARDS

- Print one copy of the Birthday Card activity sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Complete one birthday card to show the children.

- Birthday Card activity sheet for each student
- Crayons and/or washable markers
- Stickers and decorations (optional)
- Completed birthday card



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Begin your preparation this week by looking at these key passages: Genesis 5 and Genesis 11:10–26.

So, now that you've read the key passages listed above, is your head spinning? We often rush through the genealogies of the Bible, laughing at our inability to pronounce the difficult names. But this time, take note of the details given in these two chapters. Genesis 5 recounts the ten generations before the Flood; Genesis 11 lists the ten generations after the Flood. When God includes such specific details, He intends for us to take notice.

Unlike a genealogy that simply lists the order of lineage, these passages contain ages and enough detail for the reader to determine the time span. They serve as “birth certificates,” and allow us to calculate the time from Adam to Abraham. Each generation builds on the one before it, so we can add the years together to determine when Adam was created and the approximate age of the earth.

As we add up the years from Adam to Abraham, we get approximately 2,000 years. Historically it has been agreed upon by Christian and non-Christian historians alike that Abraham lived about 2,000 years before Christ. If we add the 2,000 years that have passed since Jesus's birth, we get an accurate age of roughly 6,000 years.

Were there billions of years that passed *before* Adam was created? No! The Bible says that Adam was created on the sixth day of creation (Genesis 1:26, 31) and that God created at the “beginning” (Genesis 1:1). Jesus Himself confirmed His belief in the creation account when He acknowledged that Adam and Eve were created at “the beginning of creation” (Mark 10:6).

There are many Christians and non-Christians who, in an attempt to make the universe older than it is, will say there are gaps in the genealogies recorded in Genesis. They argue that the word *begat* allows for generation skipping. However, the Hebrew word for *begat* (*yalad*) means a literal father/son relationship. Nowhere in the Old Testament is *yalad* used in any other way than to mean a single-generation (father/son or mother/daughter) relationship.

The genealogies are important to our history and should be read just as they are written. They are given to us to verify that the Bible is real history and that we are all descendants of a real man, Adam. We can trust these genealogies to give us accurate information because they are a part of the infallible, inerrant Word of God.

APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The belief that scientists have “proved” the earth to be billions of years old is a major reason many in the church have abandoned the biblical account of creation. However, contrary to popular belief, radiometric dating does not prove the earth is old.

All radiometric dating methods are based on the rate that radioactive elements decay in the rocks. Geologists refer to “parent” elements in rock decaying to “daughter” elements in the rock. By measuring how much “parent” and “daughter” elements are in a specimen, scientists try to calculate how old it is.

However, these methods are based on assumptions that are neither testable nor provable. These old-earth geologists come up with faulty dates because they are relying on faulty assumptions. These assumptions are:

1. The assumption that we know the starting conditions of these rocks—particularly the ratio of parent atoms to daughter atoms in the rocks to begin with. No one can definitively explain the starting conditions because no one was there when they were formed. It is impossible to know the ratio when the rock was formed, so secular scientists assume there was 100% parent and no daughter.
2. The assumption that all of the daughter atoms found in a rock were formed from the parent atoms in the same rock. We have no way of knowing for sure that all of the daughter atoms in a rock came from parent atoms in the same rock. Contamination of some sort, from ground water, for example, could add or eliminate parent and/or daughter atoms to the rock, making any dating of this type unreliable.
3. The assumption that the rate of decay has always been constant. This is a dangerous assumption given that we weren't there and we don't know if the rate of decay has been the same over thousands of years.

In addition to these assumptions, there are documented examples of inaccurate radiometric dating. Following are just a few examples:

- A sample of the lava dome in the Mount St. Helens crater (that had been observed to form and cool in 1984) was analyzed in 1996. It contained so much argon-40 (daughter atoms) that it had a calculated “age” of 350,000 years!
- Lava flows on the sides of Mt. Ngauruhoe, New Zealand, known to be less than 50 years old,

yielded radiometric “ages” of up to 3.5 million years.

- The same basalt flows on the top of Grand Canyon were tested using three different dating methods. The “ages” calculated were 916 million years, 1.143 billion years, and 2.6 billion years!

God’s Word unmistakably teaches a young earth and universe. God has ensured the accurate recording and preservation of His eyewitness account of the earth’s history, which Jesus Christ endorsed repeatedly during His earthly ministry. We must have confidence in what God has revealed to us in His Word and not allow man’s ideas to cause us to reinterpret it or compromise it in any way.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

For centuries Christians have believed that God created the world in six literal days roughly 4,000 years before Jesus’s birth and that He judged the world by destroying it in the Flood of Noah’s day. It is only over the last 250 years that questions about the Bible’s record of time have arisen. Why? Christians and non-Christians swayed by the words of men began to try to fit billions of years of earth history into the Bible. The anti-biblical, philosophical assumptions that were used to interpret rocks and fossils threw the door wide open for doubting, manipulating, and questioning God’s Word.

Even before the technology of radiometric dating was available, the shift in belief from the young earth to the faulty old-earth theories invented by man was leading to the idea of Darwinian evolution. Consequently, an avalanche of anti-biblical science appeared on the scene. It wasn’t long before many church leaders began

to embrace the old-age theories and made efforts to fit the ages into the Bible. Today, placing man’s knowledge above what Scripture says has become commonplace. Sadly, interpretations of science, and tradition, often influence Christians more than Scripture itself.

But does the age of the earth really matter? Consider this. The Bible gives a detailed record of the age of the earth in the Genesis genealogy passages. Choosing to discount that part of the Bible because it doesn’t line up with what we’ve heard from the scientific community, or the media, is placing man’s knowledge above the authority of Scripture. If we are unable to take Genesis 1–11 as documented history, then how are we to believe the rest of the Bible? The Bible must be the final authority on all the matters it speaks of—not just the moral and spiritual. Every Word of God is true. It is the history book of the universe and we dare not presume to know more than the Creator God.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Omniscient and sovereign God, I praise you for your Word. I recognize that it is completely sufficient for me. Your Word is living, and I continue to learn as I study to teach others about you. Show me your wisdom, Lord, and bless my students this week. Use me to present your truth clearly so these children will have a better understanding of the age of the earth, and be prepared to answer the attacks on your Word that are so prevalent today.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the God Made . . . Animals coloring sheet. Talk about the Creator God and the animals He created only 6,000 years ago.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the lesson pages from the Flip Chart. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds, and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, yarn, scissors, and masking tape needed for Activity 1, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible Study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Prayer page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we're sorry for doing things that are wrong.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their own confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . (insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to circle time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the circle time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first four questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Before we begin, what is this? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible!*
- ? What is in this Bible? *God's holy Word!*
- ? What does the Bible tell us? *Everything we need to know!*
- ? And all God's Words in this Bible are what? *True!*
- ? How many of you have ever heard this song? *Sing the first lines of "Happy Birthday."*
How many of you have had someone sing that to you? *Show of hands.*

I think we all have had that song sung to us on our birthdays.

- ? What is a birthday? *Allow for answers.*

It tells us how old we are, doesn't it? When we celebrate our birthday, we're counting every year since the day we were first born. So if you are four years old on your birthday, that tells us that you were born four years ago.

The Bible tells us about a lot of people's birthdays. God wanted us to know how old the people in the Bible were. When we add up all the birthdays of the people in the Bible, it helps us to figure out how old the earth really is. Look here. *Turn to the Lesson 6 Flip Chart page.*

- ? Who was the very first man ever created? *Adam!*

That's right. Now I'm going to read something from the Bible. It is about Adam. Listen and see if you can figure out how many birthdays Adam had. *Read Genesis 5:5. 930 birthdays!*

Can you imagine having 930 birthdays? The Bible tells us about a lot of people's birthdays.

- ? Listen to this and tell me how many birthdays Seth, Adam's son, had. *Read Genesis 5:8. 912 birthdays!*

Wow! People lived a lot longer back then didn't they? And God was very careful to tell us exactly how long all of these people lived. God told us about all of these people and how old they were. Knowing how long people lived—starting with Adam—helps us to know how old the earth is.

Listen to this verse and tell me how many birthdays Noah had. *Read Genesis 9:29. 950 birthdays!*

It would take a really big birthday cake to put 950 candles on it!

► As you teach, refer often to the Flip Chart picture to keep the children engaged.

Genesis 5:5

Genesis 5:8

Genesis 9:29

- ? Have you ever heard anyone talk about how old the earth is? *Allow for answers.* Have you ever heard anyone say that the earth is millions of years old? How about billions of years? *Allow for answers.*

Well, the earth is NOT millions or billions of years old. In fact, we can figure out how old the earth is if we count the birthdays of the people God listed in His Word—such as Adam and his sons, and Noah and his sons. In fact, if we add all the birthdays of the people in Genesis, we know that from Adam to Abraham there were about 2,000 years. *Refer to Flip Chart.*

Now, there are people who study history, that is, things that happened in the past. These people agree that from Abraham to Jesus was about 2,000 years. So we have 2,000 + 2,000 and that is 4,000 years so far. *Refer to Flip Chart.*

- ? What do we call the day we celebrate Jesus’s birthday? *Christmas.*

Right! And the very first Christmas was about 2,000 years ago! *Refer to Flip Chart.*

So, let’s add them up. *Refer to the Flip Chart.* If you add 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000, that equals 6,000 years from Adam to us today!

- ? Who was the very first man every created? *Adam!*

- ? That’s right! Adam was created at the very beginning. And how long ago was that? *6,000 years ago!*

So the earth has had about 6,000 birthdays. That’s a lot of birthdays, but not as many as a million or a billion!

Wow! God tells us in His Word how old the earth really is. Remember, the Bible is God’s Holy Word and God does not lie. So we can trust the Bible—it always tells the truth. And it tells us that the earth is only about 6,000 years old! *Refer to Flip Chart.* We believe that because we believe that God’s Word is true!

SONG

OK! God created everything—including the earth—just about 6,000 years ago. Let’s sing the “God Created!” song. Remember, God spoke everything into existence. EVERYTHING! And it was just about 6,000 years ago! *Sing the “God Created!” song.*

- ? That was wonderful! We can’t sing about creation without singing about the dinosaurs. When did God create the dinosaurs? *About 6,000 years ago! Sing the “God Made Dinos!” song. Add clapping, stomping, or marching!*

- ? Who remembers our memory verse song? *Allow for answers.*

Let’s sing that. It is Exodus 20:11. *Sing the Memory Verse song.*

Lyrics to all the songs can be found on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Great job, everyone! Now sit down quietly and show me you’re ready to listen so I can tell you what we’re going to do next.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song page and the Memory Verse page during this part of the lesson.

► Children will remain in the circle for Activity 1.



Million-Year Yarn

? Who remembers how old the earth is according to what the Bible says? *6,000 years old.*

That's right, 6,000 years old. But many people don't believe what the Bible says. They believe that the earth is a lot older than that—at least a million years old!

MATERIALS

- Length of yarn, long enough to stretch the length of the classroom
- Scissors
- Masking tape or marker to mark the yarn

INSTRUCTIONS

Choose two children to hold both ends of a long piece of yarn across the length of the classroom. This will represent one million years. Mark off three equal short lengths to represent 2,000 years each. Then cut the yarn at the 6,000 year mark. Hold it up against the million year length to compare the difference in the lengths of time. Keep in mind that 6,000 is just a small fraction of the entire length of a million, so cut according to the length of the yarn. Technically, 6,000 years would be represented by about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of a 10 ft. yarn. But you may want to cut a little larger piece so everyone can see what you are doing.

Let's see if we can imagine the difference between 6,000 years and a million years!

I'm going to choose two people to help me. The rest of you need to watch carefully. *Choose two children to hold the ends of the yarn.*

Now these two are going to hold the ends of our yarn. Stretch it out all the way. Let's imagine that this yarn is as long as a million years! That's a long time, isn't it? *Move to one end and put a piece of tape on the yarn to mark 2,000 years. Here is where 2,000 years would be. Mark another 2,000 year segment. Here is where 4,000 years would be. Mark another 2,000 year segment. So, here is where 6,000 years would be. That is just a tiny part of a million years!*

? What happened 6,000 years ago? *God created the earth!*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? A million years is really long isn't it? What about just 6,000 years? Is that longer or shorter? *Shorter. Hold up short string.*

? How do we know how old the earth really is? *The Bible tells us. Why do some people think the earth is over a million years old? They don't believe the Bible.*

? How about you? Do you believe God's Word is true? *Yes. Encourage them to think about what they believe.*

Transition children back to their tables quietly.



Earth Birthday Cards

Because we believe God's Word is true we know the earth is only about 6,000 years old. If it had birthdays like you and I do, then it would have had about 6,000 birthdays since Creation Week when God first made it!

Show a completed card. We are going to make a birthday card like this. We don't celebrate the earth's birthday—but we can remember that according to God's Word the earth is NOT millions of years old!

MATERIALS

- Birthday Card activity sheet for each student
- Crayons and/or washable markers
- Stickers and decorations (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students color, decorate, and fold the cards.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Take this card home and show it to your family. Tell them that the Bible tells us that the earth is only 6,000 years old. Not millions of years old.



Memory Verse/Snack

Exodus 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them.

After thanking God for your snack, review the memory verse with the children while enjoying the snack for the day. You may want to use the snack as incentive to recite and/or repeat the memory verse.

Use the Memory Verse page in the Flip Chart. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times. Ask the children if anyone wants to try and say it on their own.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Now, let's take a look at our Flip Chart page again. The Bible tells us how many years there are from the beginning when God created Adam.

? *Refer to the Flip Chart as you review. Who can tell me how many years are between Adam and Abraham? 2,000 years. Now, how many years were there between Abraham and Jesus? 2,000 years. Yes. And when was Jesus born? 2,000 years ago.*

That's right! Now add them all together and we get 6,000 years! *Point to each section as you add out loud.*

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Do you remember how long our million year yarn was? It was really long, wasn't it? But our 6,000 year yarn was a lot shorter. *Show the two pieces of yarn as a comparison.* Some people think that the earth is at least a million years old. They don't believe what the Bible says. We can trust the Bible. It is God's Word. The Bible tells us the truth—God created the earth 6,000 years ago.

Now let's take some time to pray to our trustworthy, loving, omnipotent God.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for telling us the truth in His Word, the Bible.
- Thank God for creating the earth and all the beautiful things in it.
- Thank God for all the birthdays He gives us.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring page, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

EXODUS 20:11—THE LORD MADE

(To the tune of “Jingle Bells”)

Exodus 20:11! *(Everyone shout!)*

In six days, in six days,
The Lord made the heavens and the earth.
God made the heavens and the earth, the sea,
And all that is in the—em!

In six days, in six days,
The Lord made the heavens and the earth.
God made the heavens and the earth, the sea,
And all that is in them! Hey!
Exodus 20:11!

GOD MADE DINOS!

(To the tune of “Are You Sleeping?”)

God made dinos. God made dinos.

(Are you sleeping? Are you sleeping?)

Children point to one another.

On Day Six! Yes, He did!

(Brother John. Brother John.)

Hold up six fingers! Nod head.

Behemoth-Brachiosaurus,

(Morning bells are ringing!)

Circle hands around head; clasp hands together over head.

A tail just like a cedar.

(Morning bells are ringing!)

Bring hands down in front; wave like a great big tail!

Yes, He did! On Day Six!

(Ding, ding, dong. Ding, ding, dong.)

Hold up six fingers. Nod head.

Teacher asks: “When?”

Everyone shouts: “6,000 years ago!”

GOD CREATED!

(To the tune of “This Old Man”)

Hold up 1 finger for Creation Day 1.

God made day, God made night,
God made everything in sight.

So let’s stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face!

Hold up 2 fingers for Creation Day 2.

He made the air, the blue sky too.
He knew exactly what to do.

So let’s stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace,
With a big, happy smile on our face!

Hold up 3 fingers for Creation Day 3.

He made the plants and the land,
From the hardest rock to the softest sand.

So let’s stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 4 fingers for Creation Day 4.

He made the stars, the moon, the sun.
Exploring the sky is so much fun.

So let’s stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 5 fingers for Creation Day 5.

He made the fish, the birds that fly;
We see them daily in the sky.

So let’s stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

Hold up 6 fingers for Creation Day 6.

All the animals that roam the land,
He even created woman and man.

So let’s stand up, turn around,
Thank God for His grace.
With a big, happy smile on our face.

