

Year 5 - Why do some people think God exists?

Knowledge Organiser



Key Knowledge

What I am going to learn...

- Know the difference between theist, atheist and agnostic and why different people might hold these different beliefs.
- Distinguish the difference between fact, beliefs and opinions.
- Interpretation - how we interpret apparently neutral "facts" can affect how we view them.
- Where do objects get their fitness for purpose? Are they too amazing to be chance?
- Evolution – does this rule out God?
- If God did design the universe, what does the universe tell us about what God is like?

Key arguments for the belief in God:

- St Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) argued that everything in the cosmos has a cause. If you track things back through a series of causes, there must have been a 'first cause'. He said that this 'first cause' is God. Scientific discoveries, e.g. the Big Bang theory, can be seen to support the first cause argument.
- The order, beauty and complexity in the world is proof of an all-powerful designer (God).
- Religious experience - a person may say they have personally 'seen', 'heard' or 'felt' God, or had a prayer answered.
- Family background – many people believe (or don't believe) because of their home background.

Key arguments against the belief in God:

- Unanswered prayers.
- The presence of evil and suffering in the world.
- Many people are atheists because they think there is no evidence for God's existence - or at least no reliable evidence. They argue that a person should only believe in things for which they have good evidence.
- Science - Atheists argue that because everything in the universe can be explained in a satisfactory way without using God as part of the explanation, then there is no point in saying that God exists.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
<u>Theist</u>	A person who believes in the existence of God
<u>Agnostic</u>	A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God
<u>Atheist</u>	A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God
<u>Facts</u>	A thing that is known or proved to be true
<u>Beliefs</u>	An acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof
<u>Opinions</u>	A view or judgement about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge
<u>Interpretation</u>	The action of explaining the meaning of something
<u>Evolution</u>	The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of Earth
<u>Universe</u>	All existing matter and space considered as a whole
<u>Creation</u>	The creating of the universe, especially when regarded as an act of God
<u>Humanism</u>	Humanists do not believe in God. They believe it is possible to live a good and fulfilling life without following a traditional religion. They do not follow a holy book either, instead Humanists value traits like reason and rely on science to explain the way things are. Humanists believe that people have one life to live and there is no afterlife. As a result they focus on being happy and making the most of their life. They also believe they have a duty to support others.

Possible Experiences (things I could do at home to help)

- Research a Creation story from a religion of your choice – retell it as a comic strip or story map.
- Choose a quote from the Bible and create a piece of artwork around the quote.
- Research Humanism and make a poster or leaflet explaining what it is and people's key beliefs.



Useful Websites

Some examples of scientists who are Christians e.g. Jennifer Wiseman, John Polkinghorne, Denis Alexander.
<http://request.org.uk/issues/ultimate-questions/science-faith/>