

# Growing Together

Inspired by the Christian Faith

## WHY DID GOD MAKE THE WORLD AS IT IS?



### Read together

The Bible doesn't tell us exactly how God created the world, but there are lots of Bible stories that show us how God was involved in the heart of creation and how God saw it was good for life. The stories also remind us that God gave us the responsibility of caring for the world.

Looking at the world, it seems that God's imagination has no limits.

Look at these photographs of parts of creation.

Choose one and see how many interesting describing words or colour words it makes you think of.

Do you think it's good?



Can you spot which picture is a virus under a microscope?

Can you name the red planet?



## Did you know



There are over 60,000 species of trees in the world and over 6,000 species of frogs.

A hill must be a minimum of 300 metres to be a mountain. That's about the same height as 20 double decker buses piled on top of each other. Mount Everest is equal to a pile of 643 double decker buses! BUT the deepest part of the ocean, the Mariana Trench, could fit Mount Everest inside and still have 160,934 metres spare... which is about another 37 buses.

## Create & make

Using a paint colour chart, see what you can find in the garden or park that matches the colours. What surprises you? Why?



## Family Fun

Spend a moment thinking about how many different types of things God has designed and created. Play a 'creation' version of 'Who am I?' choosing from categories like 'animals', 'trees' etc. Each player has a type of tree or animal written on a piece of paper or Post-it® note and stuck on their forehead or back. You can then take turns to ask each other questions to find out who or what they are.

Or you could go forest, park or garden bathing

- Turn off your phone and agree to be as quiet as possible.
- Slow down. Move through the forest or park slowly so you can see and feel more.
- Take long breaths deep into your tummy. Breathe out slowly to help your body relax.
- Stop and stand or sit still. Smell what's around you. What can you smell?
- How does the outdoor space make you feel? Look at nature's small details.
- Sit quietly. You might be surprised by the number of wild forest inhabitants you see.

## Courageous Advocacy



Bravely making the world better

What local initiatives for stopping climate change are happening in your area? How can you join in? Find out about eco bricks, tree planting or the walking bus.

## Prayer space ideas



Go for a slow prayer walk, thanking God for all the corners of creation that you don't usually notice.

Each time you turn on a tap or a light, pray for creation and ask God to help you to take care of it well.

Use the pictures on the other side, and any other bright and beautiful pictures that you might have, to create your prayer space this month. Here is a prayer which we use to remind ourselves how the beauty and wonder of creation blesses people. You might like to use it to ask God to help you bless creation.

- Deep peace of the running waves to you.
- Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
- Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
- Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
- Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
- Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
- Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.

## Idea for Pre-schoolers



Go on a 'not shopping' trip to a greengrocer, simply to look and see all the different fruit and vegetables that have been harvested.

## Web Links & Extended Ideas



Friends of the earth [www.friendsoftheearth.co.uk](http://www.friendsoftheearth.co.uk)  
[www.natgeokids.com](http://www.natgeokids.com), [www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk)  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

