

## The Six Days of Creation (Grades 6-8)

The Bible teaches that God created everything in just six ordinary days:

*“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”*

*Exodus 20:11*

Let’s take a closer look at each of the six days!

### Day 1: Earth, space, time and light (Genesis 1:3-5)

When God first created the Earth, it was a lot different than it is today. The Bible says that the Earth was basically a watery ball. The Bible says that God also created light on Day 1, yet He didn’t create the sun, moon or stars until Day 4. If that’s true then what was the light? We can’t know for sure but there may be a clue in the book of Revelation:

*“I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.”*

*Revelation 21:22-24*

Some critics of the Bible say that there could not been days without the sun, yet that is simply not true. What constitutes a “day”? A day is simply one rotation of the Earth on its axis which occurs over a period of 24 hours.

### Day 2: The atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8)

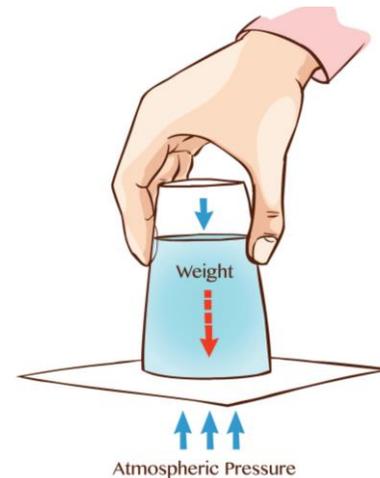
The next time you go outside, look up into the sky and thank God for creating the atmosphere (the air surrounding the Earth). The atmosphere enables us to breathe, helps keep us warm,

and protects us from meteorites and the sun's harmful rays. Life would not be possible without the atmosphere!

Did you know that air has weight? The weight of the air pushes down on us and creates something called atmospheric pressure. Need proof? Complete the experiment below.

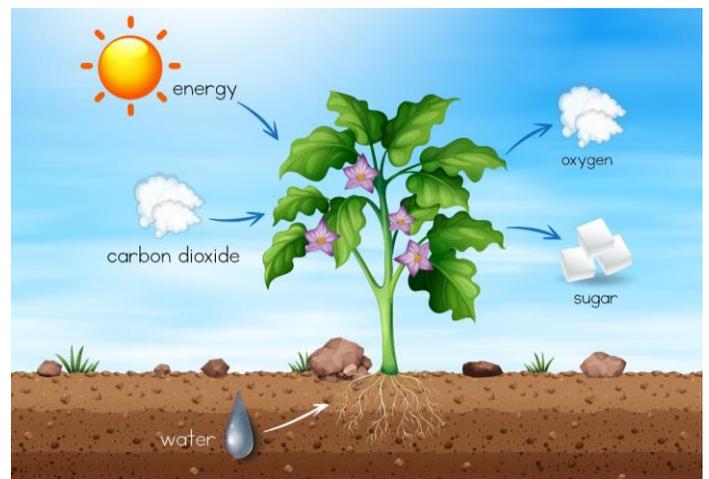
**Activity:** experiment

1. Please do this activity outside or over a sink
2. Find a cup and a small piece of cardboard
3. Fill the cup  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with water
4. Place the cardboard over the top of the cup
5. Use your hand to firmly hold the cardboard in place and turn the cup upside down.
6. Release the cardboard. The atmospheric pressure will hold the cardboard in place.



**Day 3: Dry land and plants (Genesis 1:9-13)**

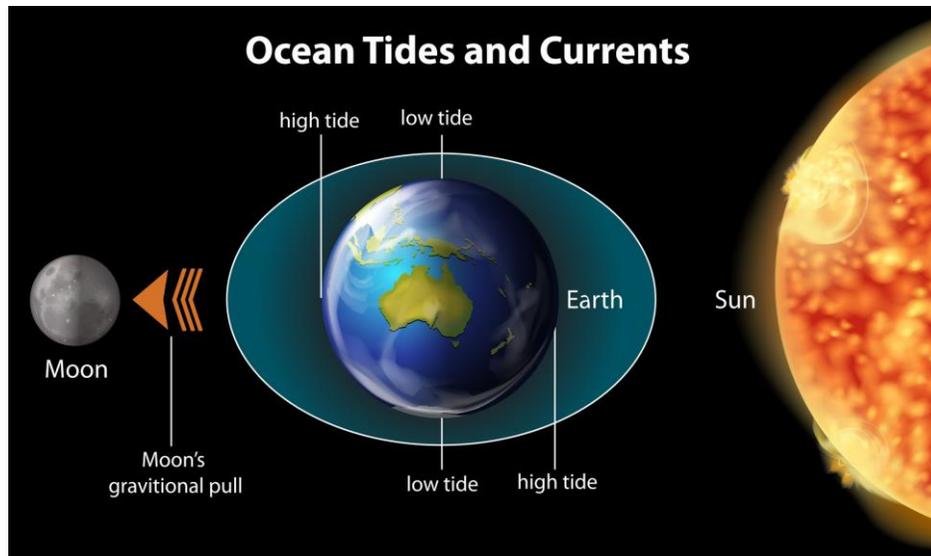
On Day 3 of Creation Week, God caused dry land to appear and created plants. Many plants are beautiful and provide us with food, shade, and oxygen to breathe. Some can also be used to create medicine. When you take a closer look at plants, you'll discover that they contain tiny biological "factories" that convert solar energy, carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and sugars via a rather complicated process called photosynthesis. If you want to learn more about it, please visit <https://creation.com/green-power-photosynthesis>.



**Day 4: The sun, moon and stars (Genesis 1:16)**

On Day 4 God created the sun, moon and stars. The sun is extremely important for many reasons. It helps keep us warm and healthy. It also provides energy and helps the plants grow.

The gravitational pull of moon on the Earth creates a slight bulge and causes the ocean tides (see the diagram below). This helps keep plants and creatures that live in the ocean healthy.



God created more stars that we could ever count. How many? One estimate is  $3 \times 10^{23}$ . That is a lot of stars! What is amazing is that God knows each of them by name! (Psalm 147:1-5)

### **Day 5: Sea and flying creatures (Genesis 1:20)**

On Day 5 God made creatures that live in water. This includes fish, dolphins, whales, eels, sharks, crabs, lobsters, sea turtles and thousands of other types of creatures!

God also made creatures that fly on day five. This includes birds, bees, dragonflies, bats, flying insects, pterodactyls (winged reptiles) and many others!

### **Day 6: Land creatures and people (Genesis 1:24-27)**

On Day 6 God made creatures that move along the ground. This includes dogs, cats, bears, mice, deer, elephants, hippos, crawling insects, dinosaurs and thousands of other creatures! God also made His favorite creatures on Day 6—people! We are God's favorite creatures because we were made in His image (Genesis 1:27).

Did God really create everything in just six, literal 24-hour days? The Hebrew word for day (“yom”) is used 2,301 times in the Old Testament (source: Answers in Genesis). By studying the context surrounding it, we can discover its true meaning. Consider the following:

Uses of “Day” in the Old Testament outside of Genesis chapter 1:

- “Day” with a number is used 410 times and always refers to an ordinary day
- “Evening” & “morning” without “day” is used 38 times and always refers to an ordinary day.
- Evening” & “morning” together with “day” is used 23 times and always refers to an ordinary day.
- “Night” with “Day” is used 52 times and always refers to an ordinary day

Now let’s consider some of the text in Genesis chapter 1:

- “And God called the light Day and the darkness he called **Night**. And the **evening** and the **morning** were the **first day**.” (Genesis 1:5)
- “And the **evening** and the **morning** were the **second day**.” (Genesis 8b)
- “And the **evening** and the **morning** were the **third day**.” (Genesis 1:13)
- “And the **evening** and the **morning** were the **fourth day**.” (Genesis 1:19)
- “And the **evening** and the **morning** were the **fifth day**.” (Genesis 1:23)
- “And the **evening** and the **morning** were the **sixth day**.” (Genesis 1:31b)

Do you see the pattern? When describing the days of creation, God used the words “evening”, “morning”, and a number followed by the word “day”. Clearly, He was describing six ordinary days.

Why does this matter? The Bible clearly teaches that death, pain and suffering came into the world through Adam’s sin (e.g. Romans 5:12). If Adam and Eve were created long after the dinosaurs and other creatures, then the pain, death and suffering that we find in the fossil record are God’s fault. Why would a loving, all-powerful God call His creation “very good” (Genesis 1:31) if it already included death? God’s original creation was perfect until Adam and Eve rebelled against God.

Recommended video: *Genesis Creation Days: Did God Really Create in Six Ordinary Days?*