

Marine Life

God is a Powerful Creator (Creation day 5)

God is a Miraculous Provider

Spiritual Awareness

As God made the living creatures to inhabit the Earth, He first made those that could exist in water and in the air. Some Christians accept the theory of evolution, believing that if each day was millions of years, then the 'lower forms' of life, birds and fish, existed millions of years before 'higher' land animals. However, the Bible speaks of the passing of 'evening and morning', (Genesis 1), before each new day of creation. These passages point to 24-hour days.

God said that His creation was good. To believe that birds and fish developed into higher land animals, through evolution, one must believe that there was death and suffering. That is to say, one species died out and gave way to a new species. It is therefore impossible to believe that God created animals over millions of years, involving death and suffering, (fossils), and at the same time, believe that God's creation was 'good'. A perfect creation does not involve death and suffering. Death and suffering came into existence after the creation of man, at the point of His fall from God's perfection.

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 6, (Provider): God is a miraculous Provider (He provides through the sea)

Our response to 'God is a Miraculous Provider'

Because God is a Miraculous Provider, I will...

- Appreciate God's ability to supernaturally create the things I need to stay alive.
- Trust in a mighty, supernatural God.
- Care for the universe He has created.
- Appreciate the greatness of God and recognize that He is in control of all He has made.
- Recognize that God is Lord and King of the universe and has everything in control.
- Thank God for the things He provides

Biblical references

The Creation (Genesis 1)

Genesis 1: 20-21 God said, "Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky. So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living and moving thing with which the water teems, according to their kinds, and every winged bird, according to its own kind. And God saw that it was good."

Psalms 148 The Creation praises God.

Luke 5:1-11 - The great catch. (Shows Jesus' power over creation)

Key questions

What does it mean to be created 'according to its own kind'?
What does God mean when He said His creation was 'good'?
How can we help to take care of God's creatures?
How does God use the ocean to provide for us?
What is an ecosystem?
Why would we call the ocean an ecosystem?

Outcomes

Students will

Knowledge

- Study the diversity of marine life.
- Understand the relationship between plants and animals in a marine ecosystem.
- Appreciate our dependence upon sea life.
- Identify habits and habitat of marine life.
- Explain the current dangers to marine life and the steps being taken in the area of environmental conservation

Skills

- Classify organisms using key words
- Draw food webs
- Observe organisms using a microscope
- Plan and conduct investigations
- Research
- Suggest ways of saving endangered species

Values

- Show interest and enthusiasm to participate in investigations
- Show environmental responsibility
- Care for creation

Activities

- Classify different type of sea creatures e.g. mammals, crustaceans, fish, whales, coral, mollusks.
- Study animal food chains and represent them in the form of a flow chart.
- Visit a sea shore if possible and observe shore life.
- Compare life on rocky shores, sandy shores, coral reefs.
- Compare differences in sea life between tropical waters and Arctic/Antarctic waters.
- Study and chart whale migration.
- List types of sea creatures used for our food.
- Discuss problems of over fishing and impact of pollution on sea life.
- Discuss impact of rising sea temperatures on marine life including coral reefs
- Discuss near extinction of rare species. What can be done?
- Make a poster to encourage care and protection of marine life.

Assessment

1. Present research on one endangered species of marine life.
2. Draw a food chain beginning with marine plants.
3. What have I learned from the study of marine life...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Link to Australian Curriculum

Science Year 4: Biological Sciences

Learning Connections

English: Writing on how to save whales

Mathematics: Graph statistics on decreasing whale populations.

Social Studies: impact of humans on marine ecosystems

Art: fish mobiles and sea collages

Thinking Skills: How can we stop marine plants and animals from becoming extinct?