

Year 9 Knowledge Organizer 3 — Environmental Ethics

Religious Quotes relating to the environment

"In the beginning God created Heaven and earth" Bible

"Love your neighbour as yourself" Bible

"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it" Bible

"The good care for the soul of his animals and the wicked are cruel" Bible

"Look at the bird, your heavenly father provides for them" Bible

"Do to others as you would have them do to you" The golden rule in most religions

"We are stewards not masters of our earth. Each of us have a personal responsibility to care for the precious gift of God's creation". Pope Francis



Most religions believe in a creator God and so believe it is our responsibility to look after it for God, be STEWARDS of God's creation. Many religions have ecology groups to help inform people of the dangers to God's creation and ways in which people can protect it such as :-

Friends of Vrindavan—Hinduism

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences—Islam

Green Christians—Christianity

One Earth Sangha—Buddhism

The Creation in Genesis

Christians and Jews believe God created the universe and the story in the Bible in the book of GENESIS details how God created all things in 6 days and then rested.

For many centuries Christians accepted this story literally that it actually happened as it says in the Bible and some Christians still believe this today and are called CREATIONISTS.

Scientific knowledge has however developed over the past 200 years and we know believe that the creation of the universe and the Earth took many billions of years following an event called the big bang. The Earth cooled and life began, not ready made as it says in the Bible but through the process of EVOLUTION as theorised by CHARLES DARWIN.

Most Christians today accept the scientific theories of creation. However they still believe that the account of creation in Genesis has truth. They think Genesis was written by people who didn't have our scientific knowledge but who believed God was behind creation. Genesis is a story which expresses that belief but that it wasn't meant to be taken literally.

ANIMAL RIGHTS

Along with one STEWARDSHIP of God's planet should also go the looking after the creatures created by God. Animals that God gave man dominion over to use but not abuse.

In the Bible it clearly identifies what animals, birds and fish that humans can eat ("you may eat animals that have completely split hooves and chew the cud") so there is no need for vegetarianism for Jews and Christians. However how one keeps and kills the animal is important. ("The good care for the soul of his animals and the wicked are cruel")

Some religions however teach vegetarianism such as Hinduism that has the principle of AHIMSA to not harm any living thing. Buddhists and Sikhs also practise vegetarianism as they believe in reincarnation and that there is a SOUL or ATMAN in all living things that is a part of God.

Judaism teaches in the TORAH you should feed your animals before you feed yourself.

Most religions teach that we can use animals in a variety of ways, as pets, for work, for food., for leisure , for testing medicines but not abuse keeping them in poor conditions and using to test cosmetics.

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