

Key Terms: The existence of God

The key terms for this topic are given below. Fill in the numbers beside each term to match it to the correct definition on the right.

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> THEIST | 1. The power to determine truth by rational means. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MONOTHEISM | 2. This is something that people accept to be true or exists when they may not necessarily have proof. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> POLYTHEISM | 3. A religious argument claiming there is evidence for the existence of God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGNOSTIC | 4. A person who believes in the existence of God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ATHEIST | 5. An argument that claims the existence of God can be inferred from the intricate design and complexity of the world in which we live. Also known as the teleological argument. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HUMANIST | 6. An argument for the existence of God, based on the idea that all people have an instinctive sense of right and wrong that comes from God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BELIEF | 7. The belief in the existence of many gods. It is viewed by many as the opposite of monotheism. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXISTENCE | 8. A person who believes that there are convincing reasons and arguments to conclude that God does not exist. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> THEISTIC ARGUMENT | 9. An experience which is caused by God rather than by ordinary or natural processes. Religious believers argue that a miracle is a type of religious experience. Also known as a spiritual experience. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> REASON | 10. A person who is uncertain if God exists or not because there is insufficient evidence. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST CAUSE ARGUMENT | 11. The state or fact of existing. This term is frequently used when talking about God. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DESIGN ARGUMENT | 12. A person who believes that human experience and rational thinking, rather than religious teachings, provide a moral code to live by. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE | 13. The theory that everything has a cause apart from God, who is the first cause, the 'uncaused'. Also known as the cosmological argument. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MORAL ARGUMENT | 14. The belief in one God. |

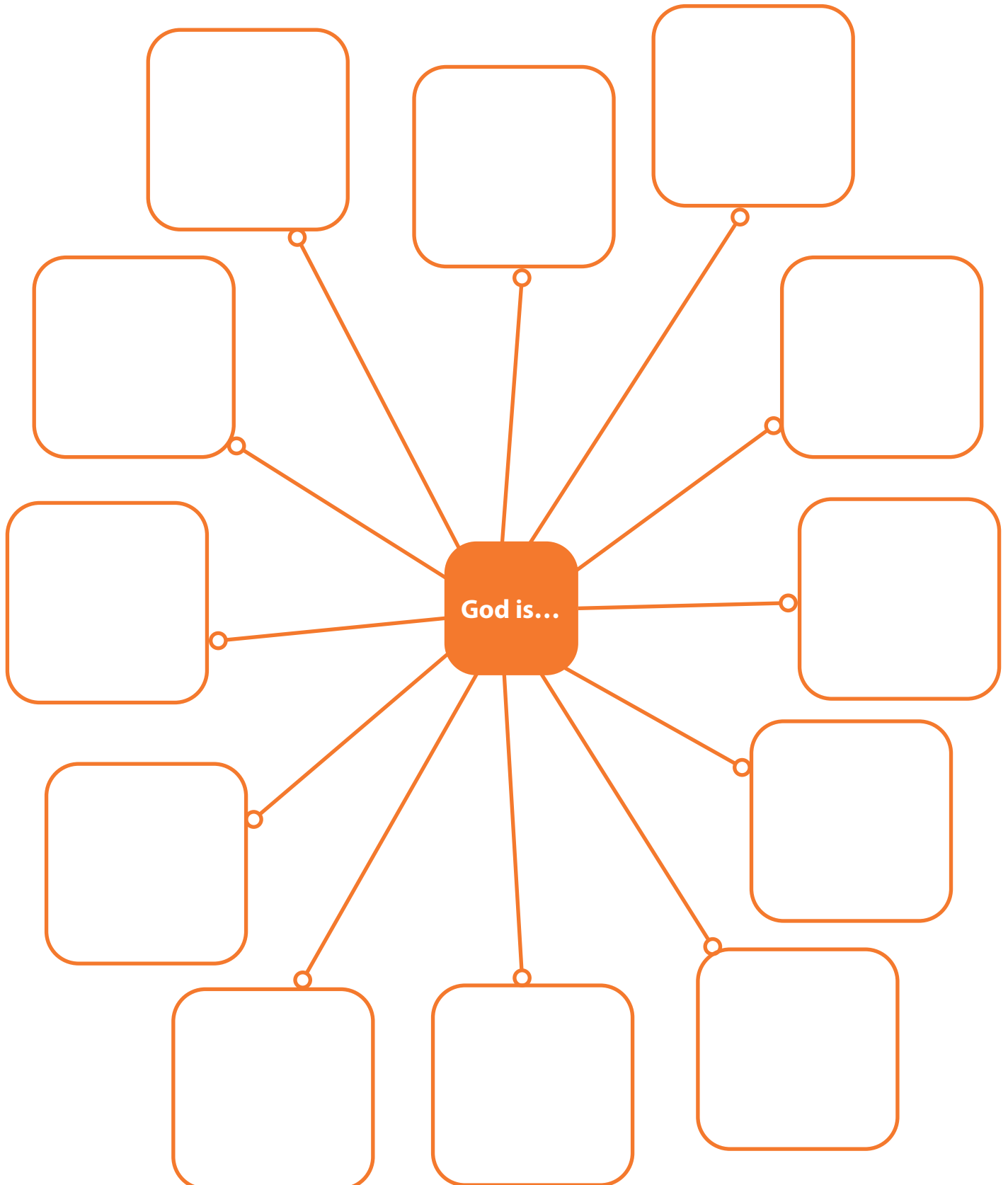
Activity: Creation vs evolution

The Genesis account of creation suggests the following statements. For each statement, explain one way in which science or geology presents a challenge to this idea.

THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION	THE CHALLENGE OF SCIENCE/GEOLOGY
God created the universe out of nothing.	
Creation took six days.	
The Earth was created in the form we see today.	
The timescale in the Bible suggests the Earth is around 6000 years old.	
Human beings are special, and the only creatures made in the image of God.	

Activity: The nature of God

Religious believers use various key terms and ideas to describe God. Use the diagram below to record these descriptions of God.



Activity: The purpose of evil and suffering

Various arguments have been put forward by religious believers to justify why, if God is good, there is evil in the world. Some of these are summarised below:

1. Suffering is a test from God to see if someone remains true to their beliefs.

2. Suffering can lead to someone's faith becoming stronger as they rely on God.

3. God sometimes uses suffering to teach people a much-needed lesson.

4. Suffering can help people develop positive qualities, such as courage and determination.

5. Facing up to suffering can help someone to become more mature.

Can you think of any other arguments to justify suffering?
Record them in the speech bubbles below.

6.

7.

For each argument above, give an objection or counter-argument in the space below.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Philosophers And Thinkers: Experiencing God

Describe briefly how each person below has contributed to this topic.

RICHARD DAWKINS

THOMAS WOOLSTON

RUDOLPH OTTO

Activity: Proofs for life after death

Construct a mind map below to summarise the possible proofs for life after death. Part of it has been filled in for you.

