

Questions to explore:

- Why do you think so many people believe in God?
- If God exists, what difference would he make to the way people live?
- What are the reasons that someone may not believe in God?

Why people do or do not believe in God?

There are some reasons why people may or may not believe in God and these can include:

- **Home background.**
- **Family background.**
- **Religious experience.**

Many would say that the universe, the earth and life are best explained as the result of an all-powerful creator.

People who do not believe in God believe there is no need to use a creator to explain the existence of the universe and life.

Etwall Primary School

Why do some people believe God exists? Year 5/6



What do Christians believe about how the world began?

The creation accounts are in *Genesis* 1 and 2, and Christians view these accounts differently.

Christians see God as the creator and designer of the natural world. It is a belief shared with **Sikhs, Muslims and Jews** - but not with **Atheists**.

There is also the 'big bang' theory. Some believe that God started the big bang whereas others do not.

Key Vocabulary

Theist - Somebody who does believe that God exists.

Atheist— Somebody who does not believe that God exists.

Agnostic— Somebody who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence of God.

Genesis' account of creation— Gods act of bringing the universe into being.

Humanists—All Humanists and religious people want to live a good life—with or without God. They believe in humanity but they do not believe in any Gods.

The 2011 UK census shows that:

- Christianity was the largest religion with 33.2 million.
- The second largest was Muslims with 2.7 million people.
- 14.1 million reported they have no religion.

Christian Scientists—

- **Jennifer Wiseman**
- **John Polkinghorne**
- **Denis Alexander**