**The Big Bang and Biblical accounts of creation**

Guided notes for students

Student name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please use the accompanying handout to complete this assignment.

1. **Bellringer activity**

**Prompt**: Who is in this photograph? What do you imagine they might be discussing?

1. **Accessing prior knowledge and beliefs**

**Directions**: In the space provided, take notes on the discussion on your classmates’ beliefs about the origins of the universe.

1. **Guided notes for foundational readings**

**Directions:** You will work in pairs. One member of your team will read and complete the guided notes for Reading A. The other member will do the same for Reading B. Then, you will teach each other about the readings you have completed.

**Reading A**

* 1. What does the Big Bang theory hold regarding the origins of the universe?
  2. What evidence do scientists have for the Big Bang?

**Reading B**

* 1. In the space provided below, please write main ideas from each passage from Scripture.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Genesis 1:1-10** | **Psalm 104:24-25** | **John 1:1-5** |
|  |  |  |

**Synthesis**

* 1. Discuss with your partner, then respond below: Do the positions expressed in Readings A and B, respectively, conflict with each other? In other words, can one believe in both the Big Bang and the biblical notion of Creation? Explain.

1. **Interpretations readings**

**Directions:** As you read Passages A, B, and C, please complete the graphic organizer below with the following notation:

Y = Yes

N = No

? = Unclear from the text whether the author believe this

Then, respond to questions 5 and 6.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Passage A** | **Passage B** | **Passage C** | **Notes** |
| The author appears to believe that a Creator is necessary to explain the universe. |  |  |  |  |
| The author appears to believe that the universe originated with the Big Bang. |  |  |  |  |
| The author appears to believe that the Big Bang and the biblical idea of creation are in conflict. |  |  |  |  |

* 1. For Barr (Passage C), what does “creation” mean? What mistake does he think that people make about the Christian idea of creation?
  2. Which of the passages (A, B, or C) do you find most convincing? Explain your answer.

1. **Catholic magisterial teaching on science and the Big Bang**

**Directions**: Please read the passages from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and Pope Francis. Then, answer the question below.

* 1. Based on these two passages, how does Catholic thought appear to approach the Big Bang—and science in general?