

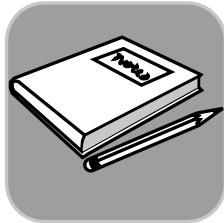
WEEK 1 Creation

Preparation:

Read Genesis 1:1 – 2:9; 2:15, using the Bible study notes to help you.

Lesson Aim:

To teach that God made everything and it was good.



Whilst the account does not answer the question 'how?' in scientific terms, it does confirm God as creator and states that everything was created through his word (see also Psalms 33:6; 148:5, Colossians 1:16). It is also interesting to note how God feeds information into his creation about his design and plan.

1. The Creator

God is distinct and separate from his creation, yet, at the same time, has an intimate and continuing relationship with it. God's Spirit hovers over the waters (1:2), he speaks to man (1:28), and man enjoys the personal presence of God.

God is the sole creator. In the beginning there was only the eternal God. God is also a person - God said, God made - he is neither an indistinct force nor an impersonal spirit (Psalm 94:8-9). God is a trinity and all three persons of the trinity are involved in the creation - God the Father (Genesis 1:1), God the Son (John 1:1-3) and God the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:2).

2. The Creation

It was a deliberate act of God bringing order out of disorder, created matter out of nothing. It was no accident or chance, but God's plan and design.

Everything was not created simultaneously, but in sequence. The six steps of creation can be seen as two groups of three; days one to three, the shaping of the planet and days four to six, the filling of the planet.

Each step begins with the word of God. On only two days does God speak twice - day 3 (v.11) and day six (v.26). This seems to emphasise that there was no natural progression from inanimate to animate or from animals to man, but that each step was directed by God (see also John 1:3).

3. Man

Man was the climax of creation and unique in that he was created in the image of God (1:26) and given dominion over the rest of creation (1:28). Man has dominion over the rest of creation because he is made in the image of God, not because he is stronger or more intelligent. There is a limit to man's dominion (Psalm 115:16).

4. Days of Creation

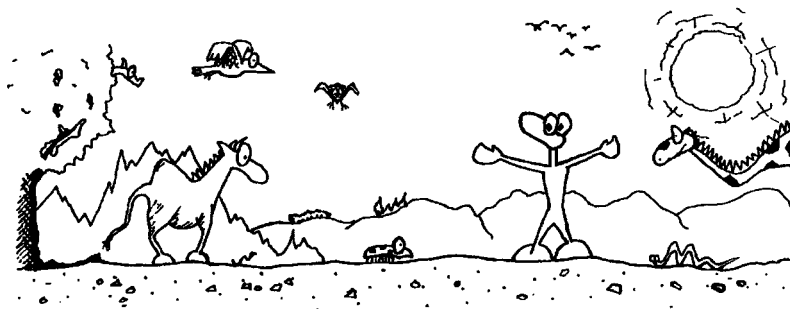
There are three main possibilities:

- literal days of 24 hours, (which may have had intervals between them?)
- long ages, (how long was the seventh day when God rested?)
- or days of revelation, (i.e. that God revealed the stages of creation to Adam over a period of 6 days).

There are evangelical Christians advocating each of these views and supporting them from Biblical evidence.

The main points to bear in mind are:

- whatever the answer, we should never lose sight of the central emphasis. God is creator; the universe did not create itself.
- we must allow God to be God - with him all things are possible.
- we should adopt the most natural reading of the Bible within the constraints of context.



As this is the first lesson you need to start by introducing the series. Talk about everything having a beginning, using every day examples. Lead into our world having a beginning. Over the next 3 weeks we will see how God made it and what happened afterwards. Start the Bible story by asking the children if they can make something from nothing? Point out that no-one can do that, but God can. At the end of the story emphasise that everything God made was good, but next week we will see what happened to God's perfect world.

Lesson Plan



- * pages 12, 13 and 14 photocopied on card
- * 2 sheets of plain card
- * cotton thread and gummed paper stars

Prior to the lesson the following preparation is required if the mobiles are to be made in the time available. It takes approximately 15 minutes to prepare each mobile, so ask your friends round with a pair of scissors!

1. Glue the large circles on pages 12 and 13 onto plain card for added strength. Cut out the circles to leave 2 discs with holes in the centre. Cut slits in the discs where indicated. Using a hole punch, make holes on the discs at x.
2. Thread a length of cotton through the top hole of the disc containing the Bible verse.
3. Cut out the remaining shapes and make holes at x. Attach a length of cotton to each shape.

The creation story lends itself to building up one picture step by step.

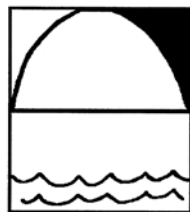
Visual aids



Day 1 Start with a large sheet of black paper. When God created light, colour one of the top corners with yellow chalk.

Day 2 For the sky, pin on a blue dome.

Day 3 For the earth and sea (green grass and blue waves) see the diagram. Add on trees, bushes and flowers.



Day 4 Glue sun onto chalked area, moon and stars onto the black corner.

Day 5 Glue fish onto the sea, birds onto the sky.

Day 6 Glue on animals and man.

This helps to fix the progression of creation into the children's minds. Remember to say after completing each day's activity, 'God saw that it was all good.'

The children can come out one at a time and glue the next piece in place. If this course of action is followed make sure there are enough pieces for every child to be involved.

Keep the visual aid for use next week.

3-5s

Photocopy pages 8 and 9 on card for each child and follow the instructions on page 8. This activity is designed to remind the children of the stages of creation.

Activities



5-7s

A creation mobile. Follow instructions on page 10.

7-9s

This activity requires a lot of prior preparation by the teacher, but is well worth the effort. Each child requires:

Activity Time

1. The children colour the discs and shapes if time permits. The plain disc is the land, so is coloured green. The other disc is the heavens and the sea, so the top half is coloured black and the bottom half blue.
2. Slot the discs together so that the green disc is horizontal and the other disc vertical. This is the basis of the mobile.
3. Hang the sun and moon from the holes at the top of the vertical disc (the heavens) with the sun lower than the moon, ensuring that both move freely. Stick stars around the heavens.
4. Hang the fish from the holes in the sea.
5. Hang the remaining shapes from the holes around the inside of the horizontal disc (the land).
6. Go over the stages of creation as the shapes are hung onto the mobile.

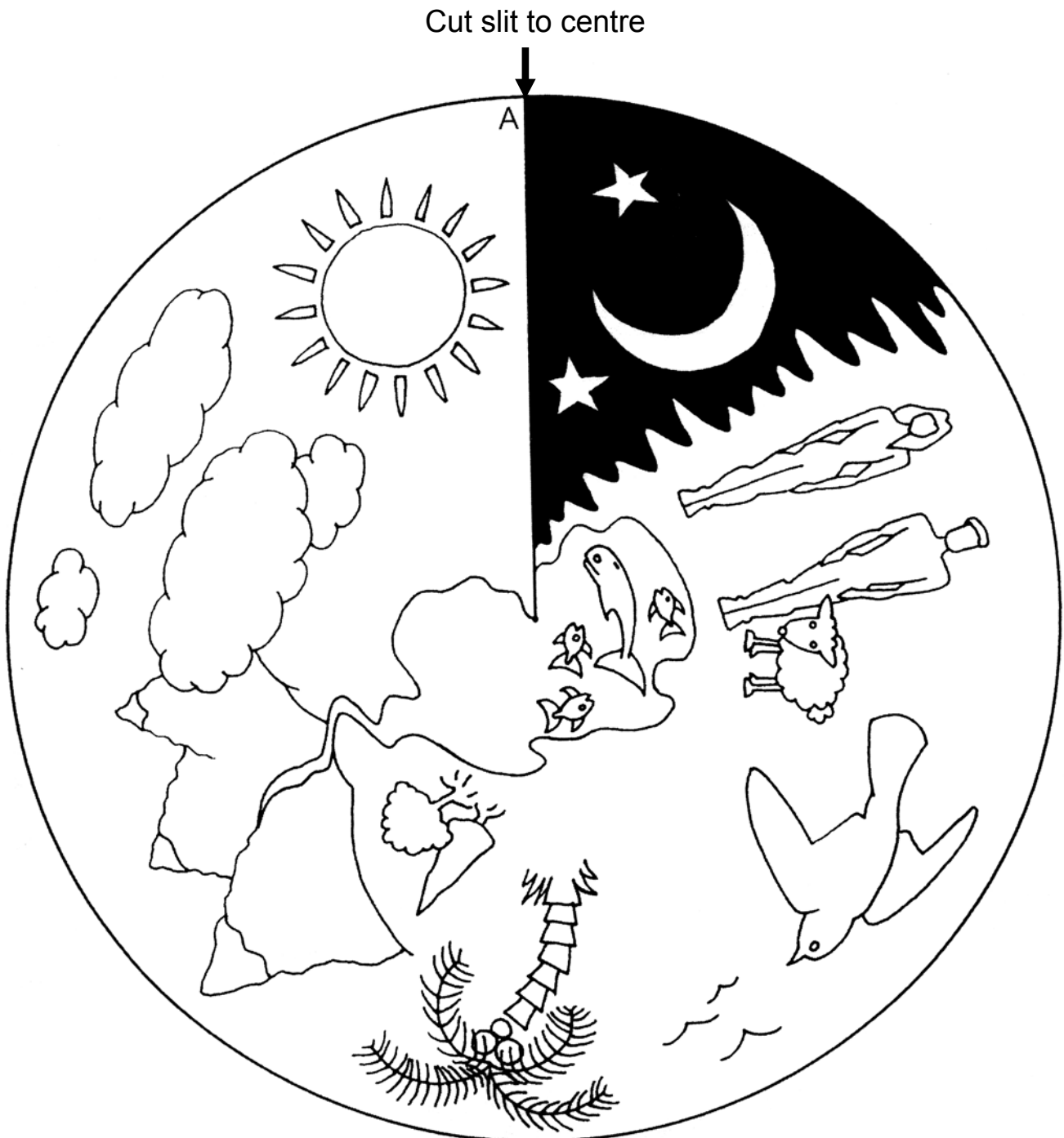
Have one ready made to show the children.

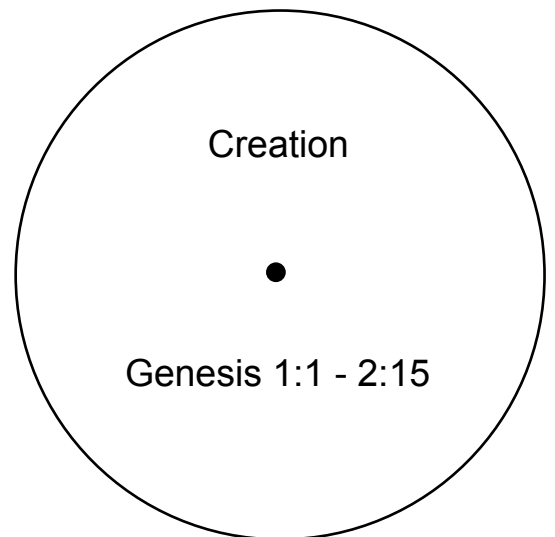
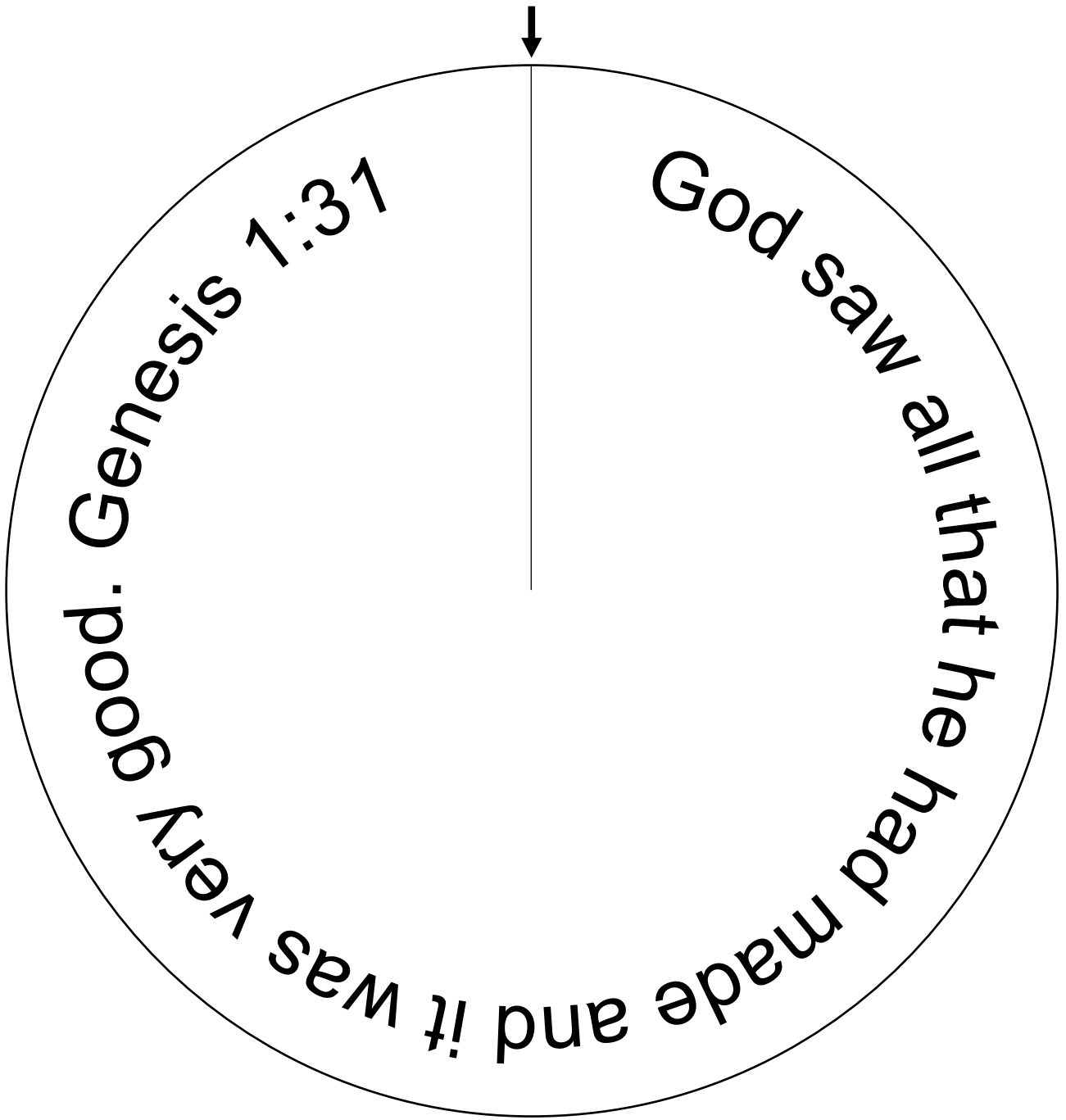
For those who are daunted by the mobile, the children can make a creation wheel. Each child requires page 15 photocopied on card and a split pin paper fastener.

Each child requires pages 8 and 9 photocopied on card and a split pin paper fastener.

Prior to the lesson cut out the 3 discs and make a clean hole through the centre of each using a knitting needle or similar. Cut along the solid line to the centre of each large disc.

1. Colour the figures on the drawn disc.
2. Colour the plain side of the other large disc black.
3. Put the discs together with the black disc on top (black side uppermost), the drawn disc in the centre (drawn side uppermost) and the small disc underneath (plain side uppermost). Fasten them together with a split pin paper fastener.
4. Point A on the drawn disc is eased through the slit on the black disc, then creation can be dialled from behind the 'darkness'.





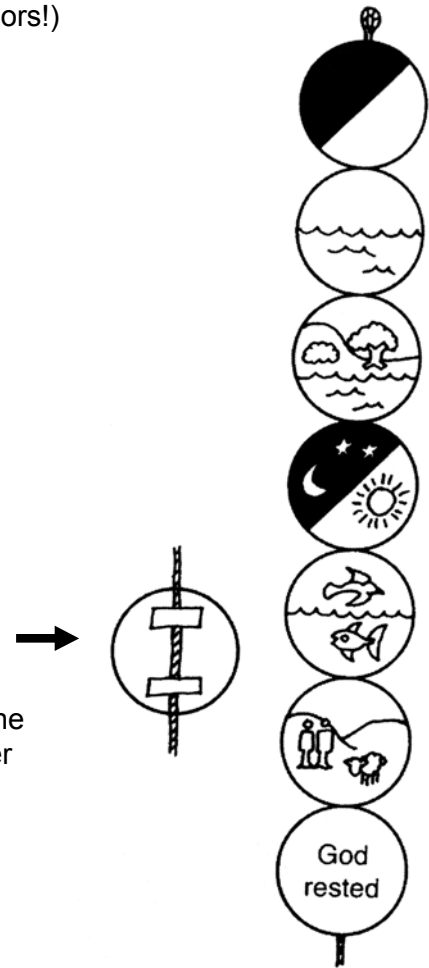
This activity requires a lot of preparation and will only work in the time available if all the cutting out is done in advance. (Invite your friends round with a pair of scissors!)

REQUIREMENTS: (per child)

- 7 circles cut from light blue card
- 1.5 m of cotton thread or equivalent.
- an envelope containing the required shapes already cut from gummed paper (see page 11 for details of what is required for each circle). Day 6 is tricky so you might want to photocopy the one at the bottom of this page for the children to colour.

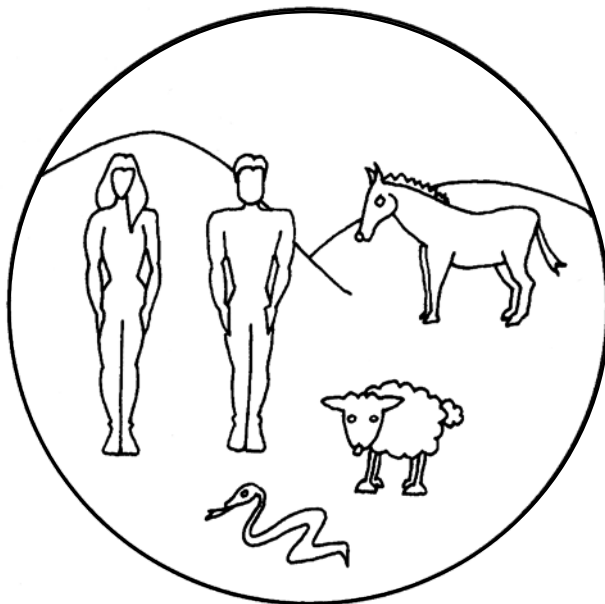
INSTRUCTIONS:

- Give each child 7 blue discs and ask them to draw the days of creation, in order. It is helpful to have a model mobile prepared in advance for the children to copy.
- The mobile is assembled by sticking the backs of the discs to the length of cotton with sellotape (see diagram).

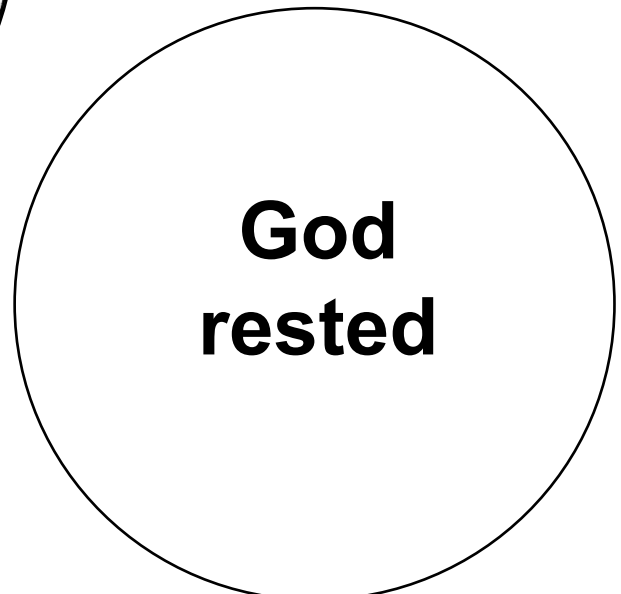


If necessary, pages 10 and 11 can be photocopied on card and the children can colour the discs rather than gluing on gummed paper shapes.

Day 6

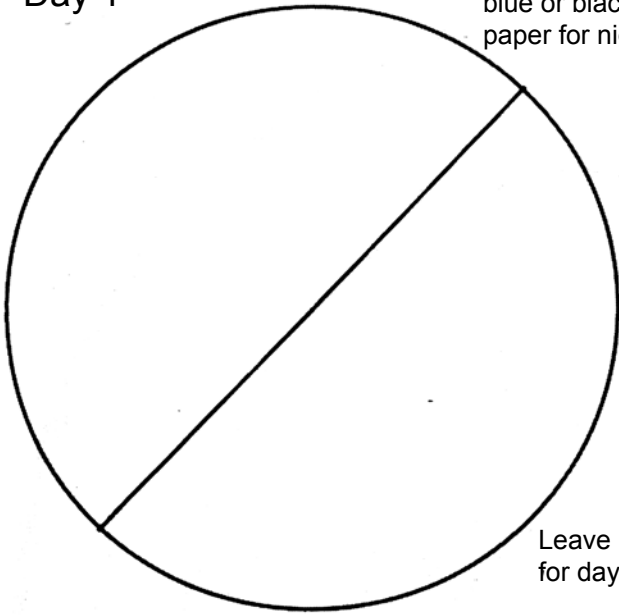


Day 7



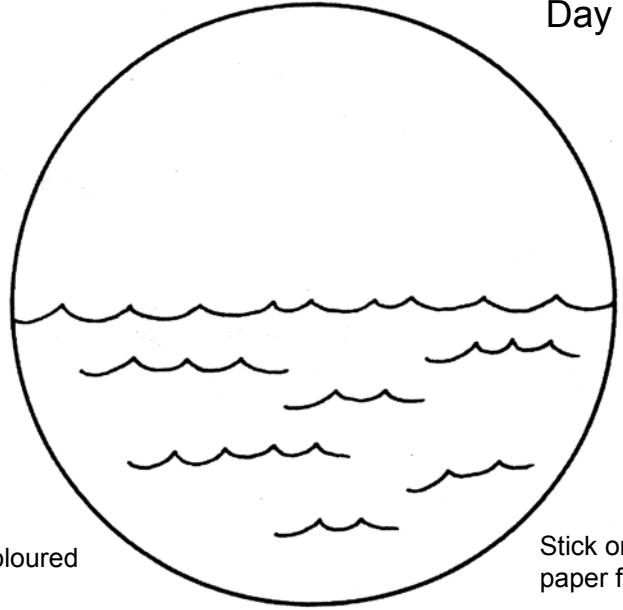
Day 1

Stick on dark blue or black paper for night.

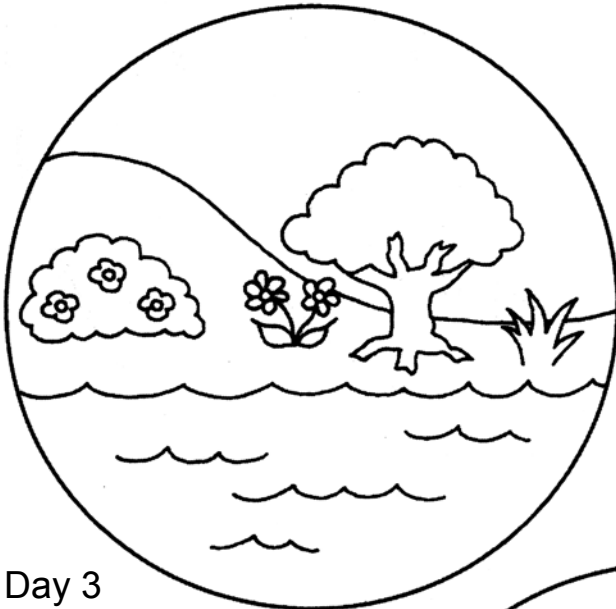


Leave uncoloured for day.

Day 2



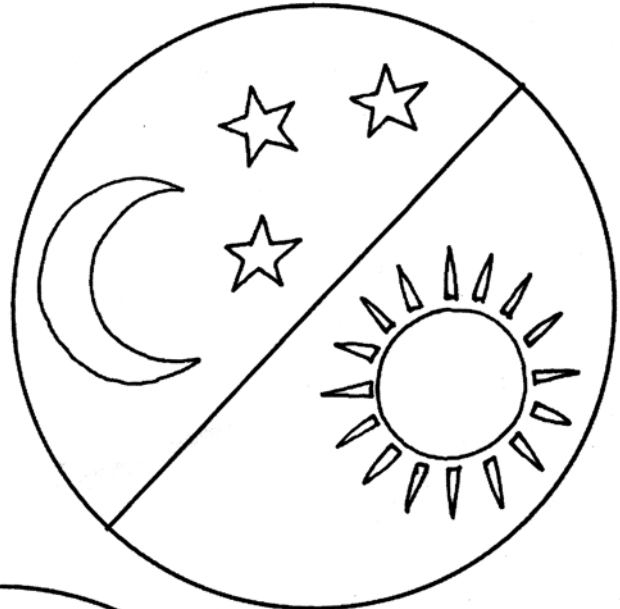
Stick on blue paper for sea.



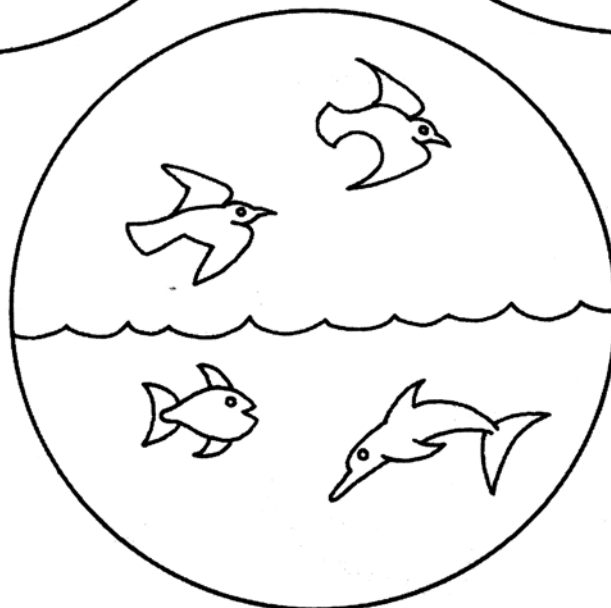
Day 3

Light green paper for grass.

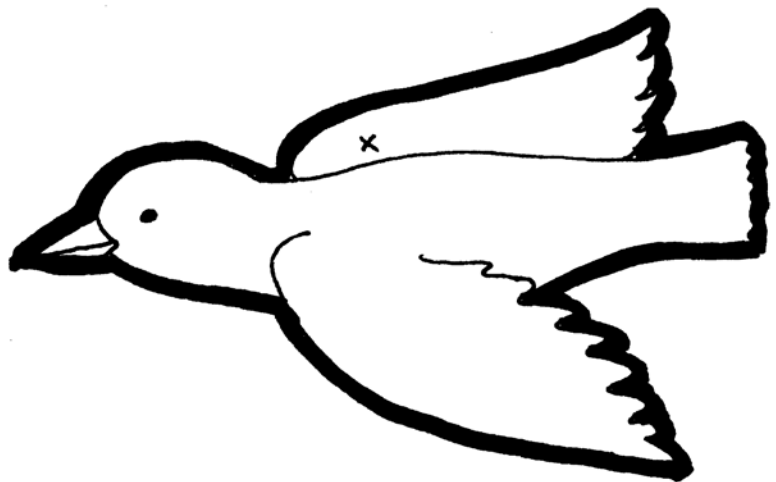
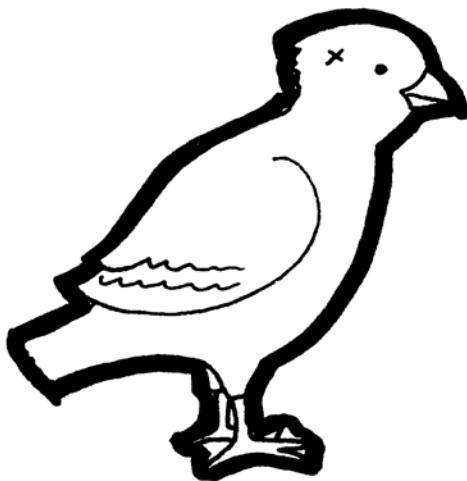
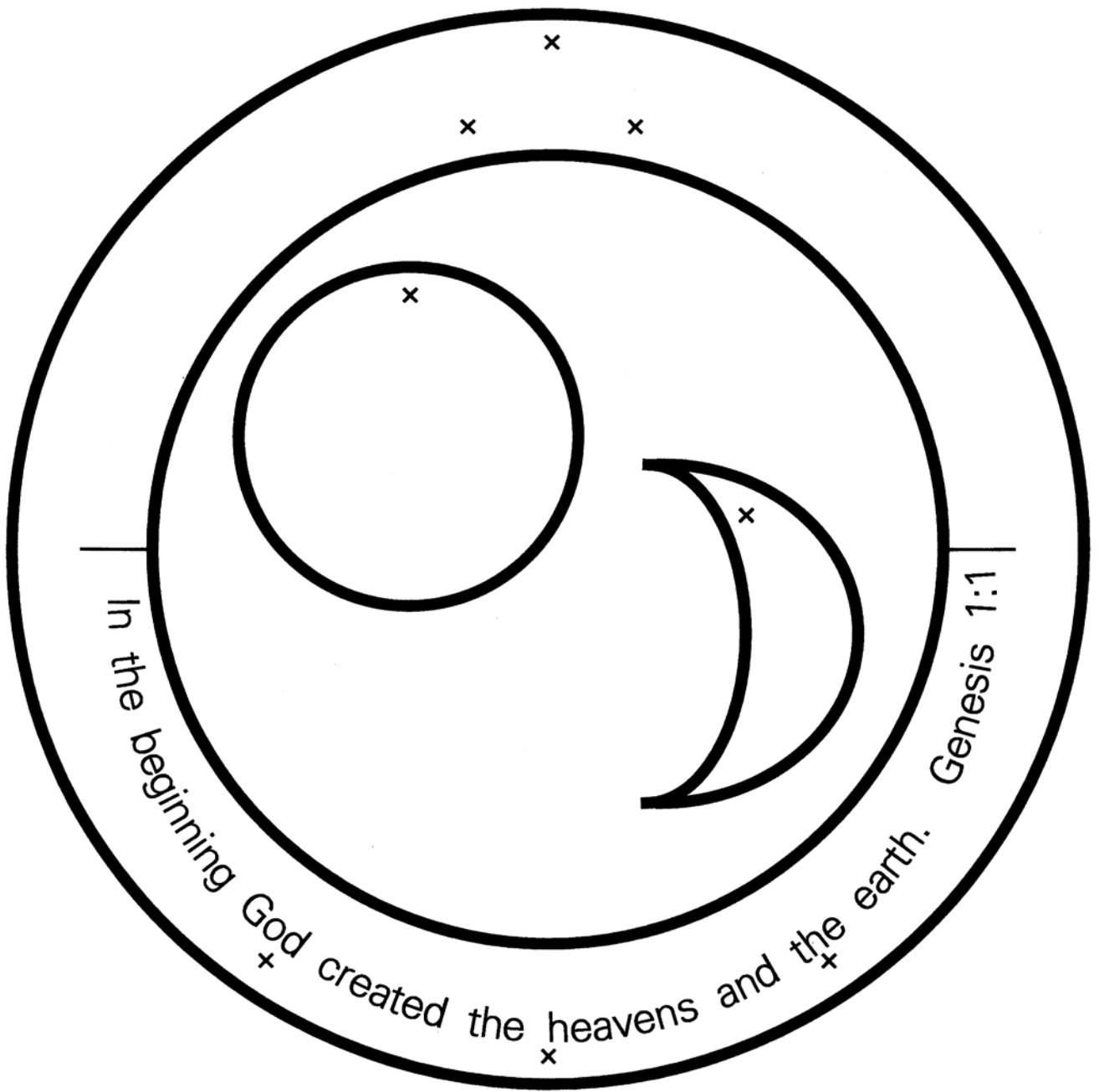
Stick on blue paper for sea. Dark green paper for bush and tree. Use felt tips for tree trunk and flowers.

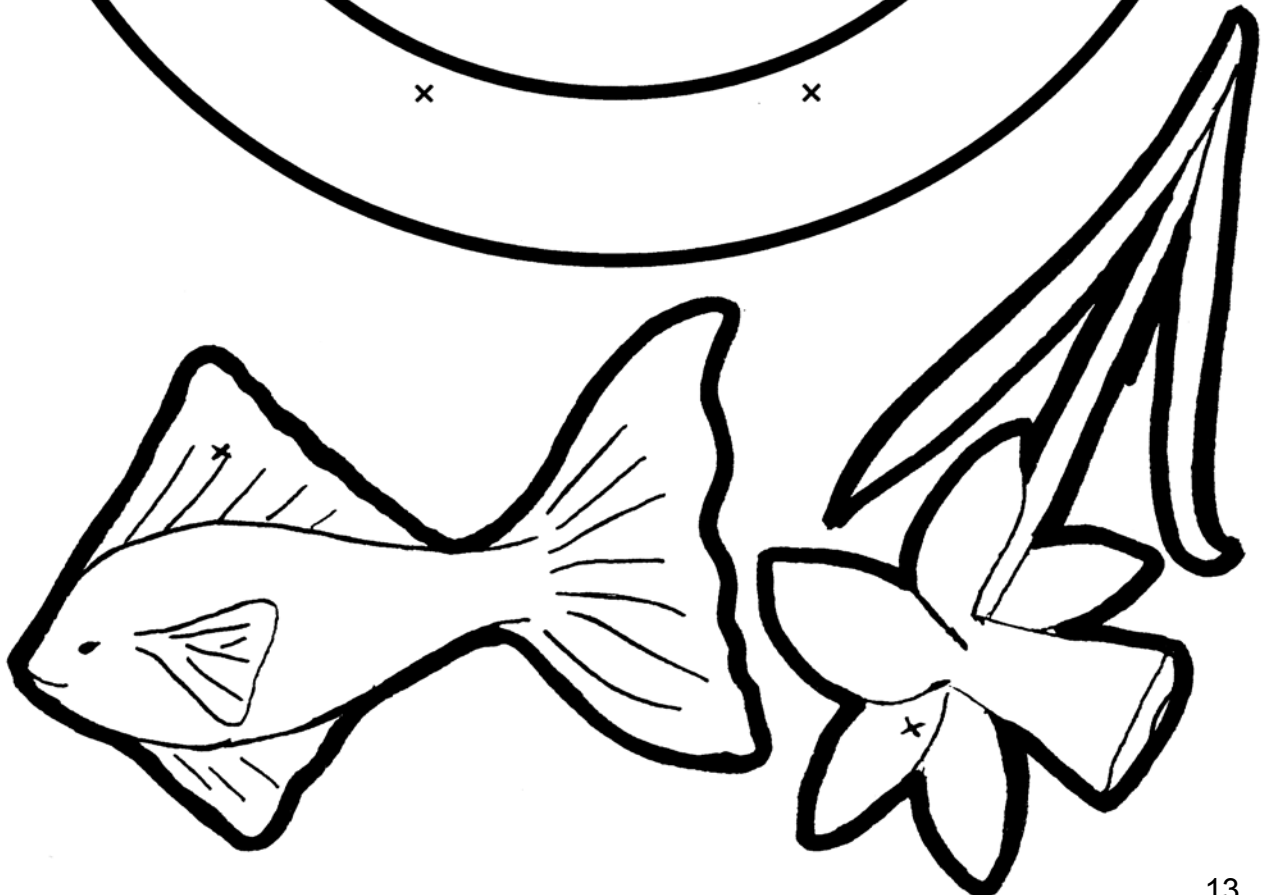
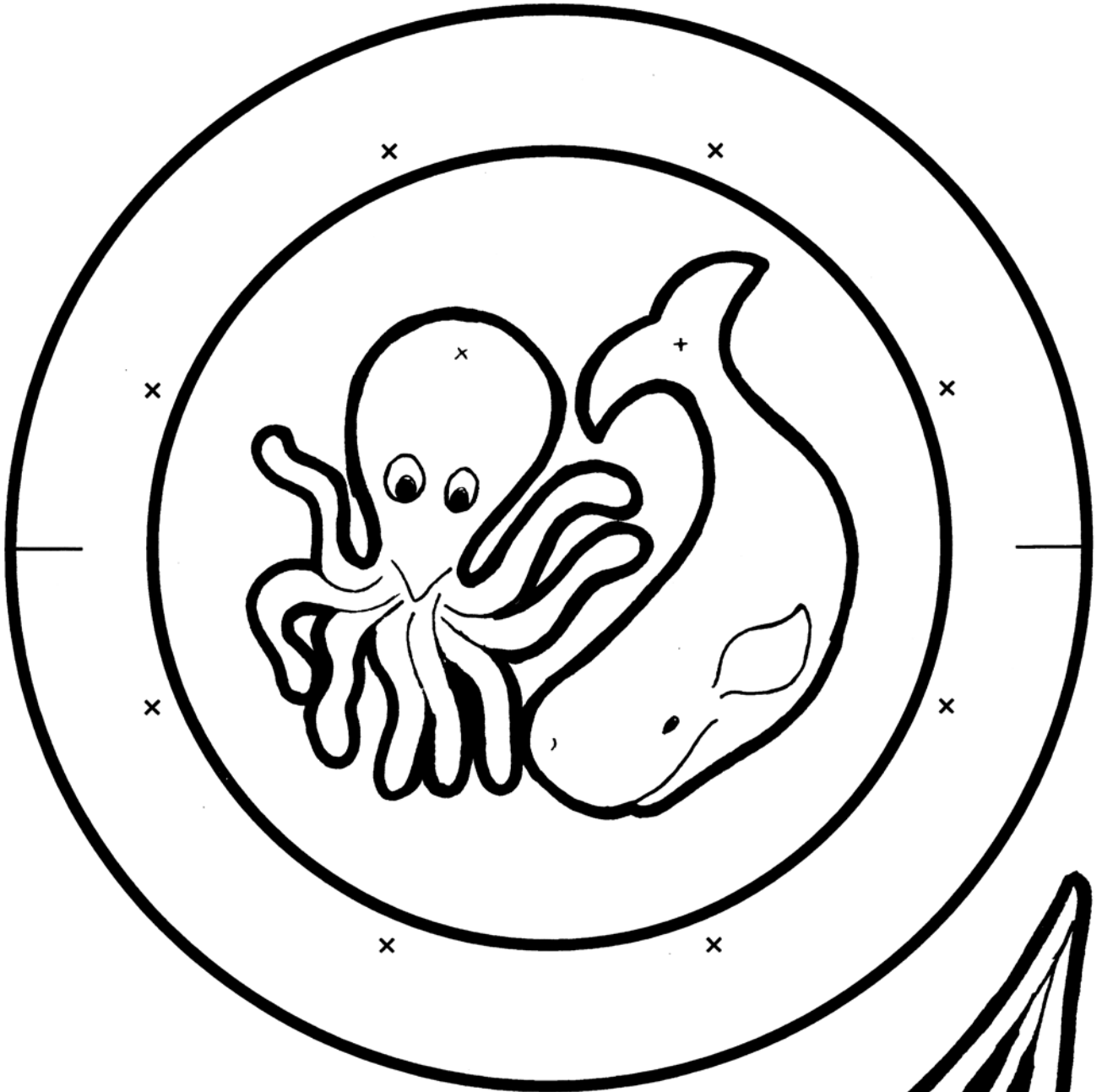


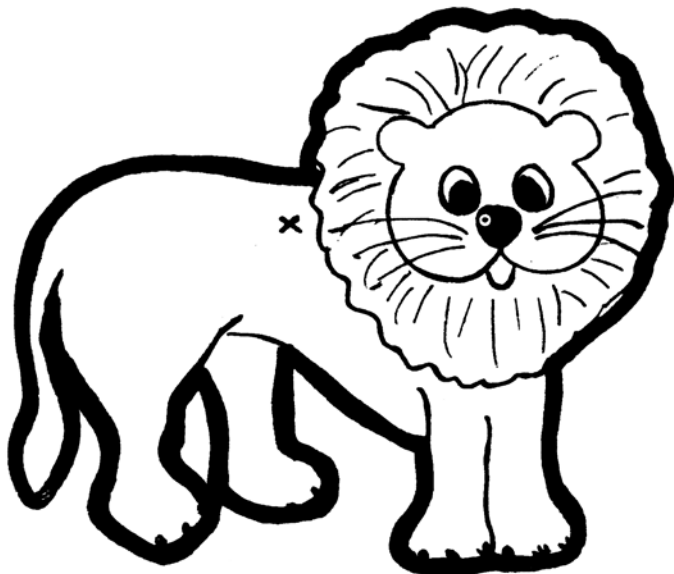
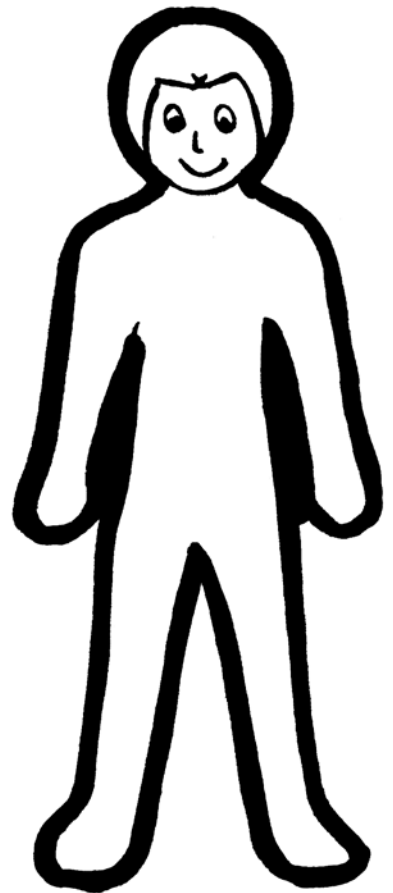
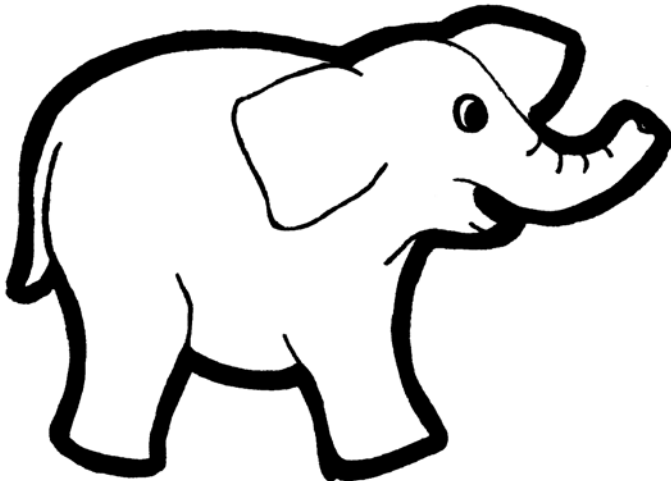
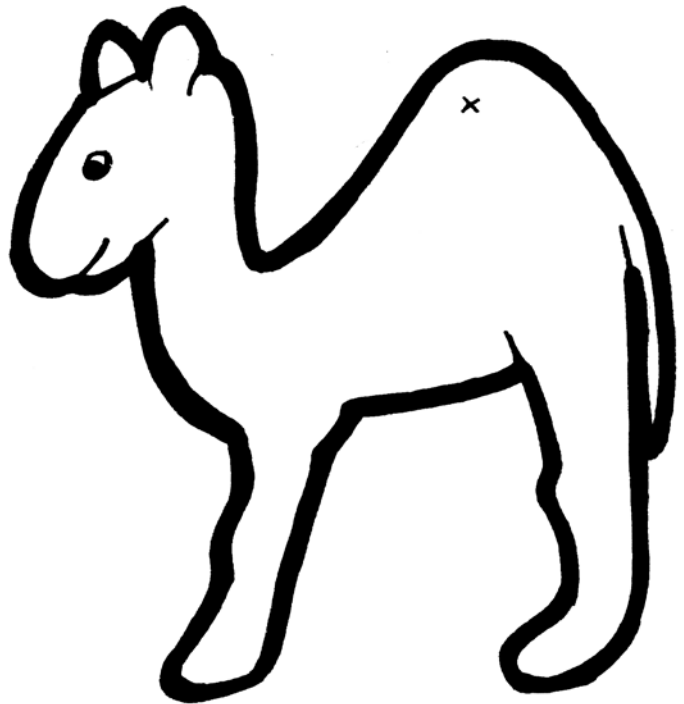
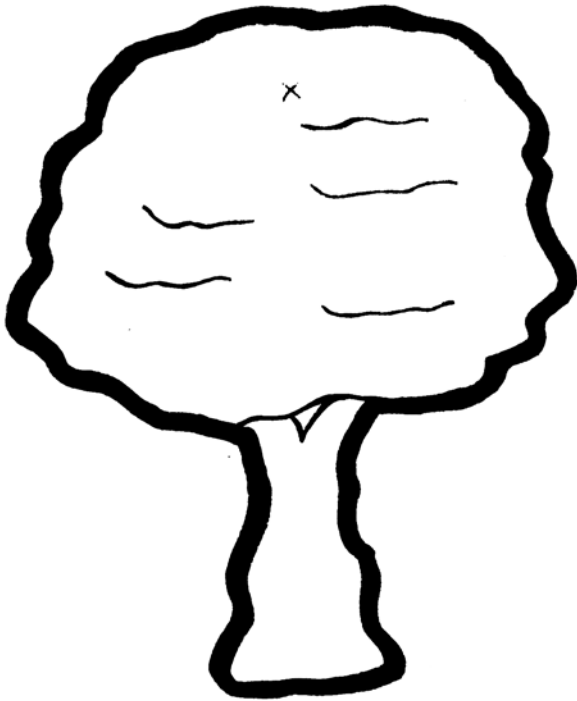
Day 4

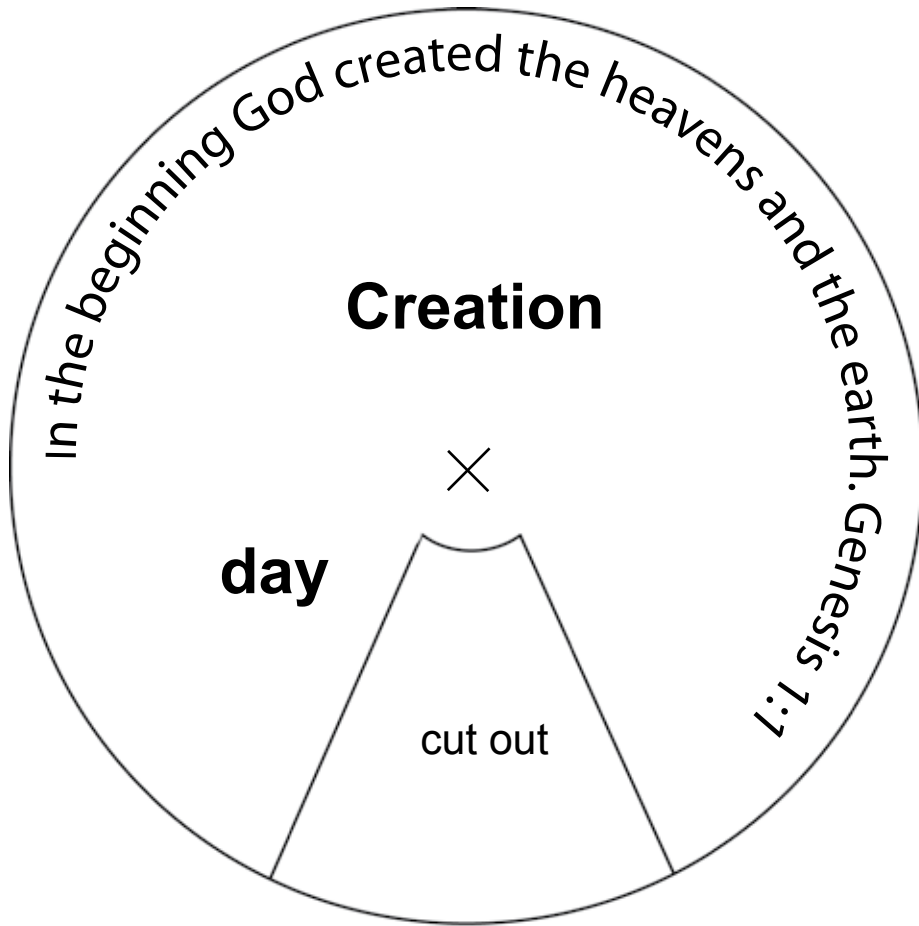


Day 5







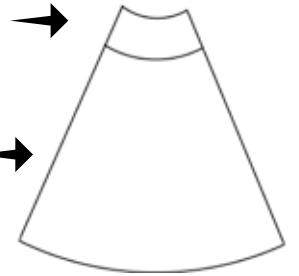


Creation Wheel

Photocopy this sheet on card for each child.

1. Cut out both circles
2. Cut out marked segment on top circle.
3. Fill in segments on bottom circle as follows:

no. of day →



picture showing what happened →

4. Attach circles together at x using a split pin paper fastener.

