

Points for Discussion

Here are some questions that could be raised with a group in response to the scientific story of the universe's evolution. You can divide the class up into different groups and present each group with a topic to discuss. Student Resource 3 contains some starter ideas for each discussion topic, to get the conversations going. Groups can then feed back their thoughts to the class as a whole. It might be productive to see if a physics class can be joined with one from RE/Philosophy for this, so that representatives from both are in each group.

1. The current scientific account of the Big Bang seems more 'in tune' with Abrahamic thinking about the creation than, say, Hindu ideas about a cyclic universe. Can science invalidate religion in this way?
2. Imagine a person who believed that God created the universe only a few thousand years ago, with all the fossils and other geological features in place to fool us into thinking that the universe was much older. Is there a scientific argument that could convince them that they were wrong? Is this view philosophically or theologically plausible?
3. Is God able to break the laws of nature? Does a miracle require breaking the laws of nature?
4. 'God has done something cleverer than create a universe, he has created a universe that can make itself.' What do you make of this comment?