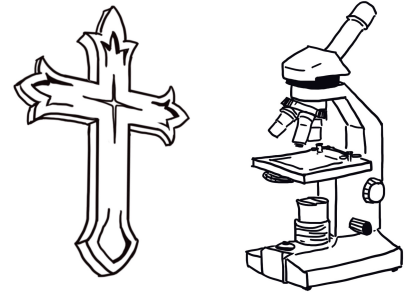


Science and religion: questions activity

Some people say that science cannot answer all our questions. Many humanists accept that may be true. Some people then go on to argue that we need religion to answer those questions that science can't answer. Humanists do not agree.



- 1) Take a look at the questions below. Sort them into three groups:
 - a) Questions that science has answered
 - b) Questions that science might possibly answer in the future
 - c) Questions that science cannot answer

- 2) Look at the questions that science has answered.

Which of these questions were answered in the past using supernatural or religious explanations? (E.g. thunderstorms were caused by the behaviour of angry gods.)

- 3) Look at the questions that science might possibly answer in the future.

Do you think science will ever be able to answer these questions?

- 4) Look at the questions that science cannot answer.

Can you further divide them into different types of questions?

- Questions of personal taste
- Moral, ethical, or philosophical questions

Look at the moral, ethical and philosophical questions. Do you think these questions have answers? If they do, do we need religion to answer them, or can they be answered in other ways?

Questions

- 1) Why do the sun and moon appear to move across the sky?
- 2) How can we cure the common cold?
- 3) Is it ever OK to lie?
- 4) Do our lives have meaning?
- 5) What causes thunderstorms?
- 6) How did life on Earth start?
- 7) What is the best flavour of ice cream?
- 8) What causes disease?
- 9) How did the universe begin?
- 10) Why do bad things happen?
- 11) Where does consciousness come from?
- 12) What causes earthquakes?
- 13) What colour should you paint your bathroom?
- 14) Does life exist on other planets?
- 15) Why does the universe exist?
- 16) Why is it colder in the winter than in the summer?
- 17) Is not saving a life as bad as taking a life?
- 18) Why do plants and animals appear so well designed for their environment?

