

UNAC (with Safe and Caring Schools)

Respecting Diverse Beliefs about the Creation of the World



**United Nations
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Alberta Council for Global Cooperation



Respecting Diverse Beliefs About the Creation of the World

Contributor

Writer: Marguerite Baker teacher
School and City: Leo Nickerson School, St. Albert
School Jurisdiction: St. Albert Protestant School District

Objective

- To understand that religious and cultural groups have different beliefs about the creation of the world and its people
- To show respect for differences in creation beliefs

 **Time** 1 hour

✂ Materials

- The story of Adam and Eve at <http://christiananswers.net/godstory/creation1.html>
- The story of Weesarkejauk in the Grade 4 textbook *Ordinary People in Alberta's Past*
- A third story of creation from another religious or cultural group at www.waldorfhomeschoolers.com/creation.htm.
- A poster defining *create* (See Poster 1)
- A poster defining *belief* (See Poster 2)
- A poster defining *respect* (See Poster 3)

Getting Started

Knowledge Now

- Use a think/pair/share activity to define the word *create*. Have students talk to someone beside them about what they think the word means. Then have students share definitions with the class.
- From the suggestions, create a class definition
- Ask for examples of things that have been created. List the examples on a board.
- Explain that we know when, where, how and by whom many of these things were created.

Engaging Interest

- Hold up a globe and ask for an explanation of when, where, and how the earth and its people were created. Model respect for each explanation.
- Summarize different explanations on a board.

- Explain that these explanations are beliefs; beliefs are accepted as explanations of something that are accepted as truth even different without certain proof.
- Post the definition of **belief** next to the definition of **create**.
- Point out that there are 6 billion people in the world; they have different beliefs about how the world and its people were created, and we should be respectful of those diverse beliefs.

Learning Activities

- Read stories of beliefs about the creation of the world and have students follow the text.
- Read the Weesarkejauk story of creation.
- Read the Adam and Eve story of creation.
- (Optional) Read a third story of creation of your choice.
- In pairs, have the students re-tell the stories to each other.
- On the board, draw a large Venn diagram and have students contribute similarities and differences between the stories.

Assessment/Analysis

- Have students brainstorm what the word **respect** looks like and sounds like.
- Ask students to share how to show respect for people who have beliefs about creation that differ from their own beliefs.

Application

- Ask the students what might happen if they did not show respect for people who have different beliefs.

Activities for Extension and/or Integration

- Science 4, “Waste in Our World” focuses on caring for the earth. The concept of stewardship of the earth is a key part of many religious and cultural groups. A further lesson could explore how that stewardship is expressed and implemented in diverse ways.
- Students could create a storyboard or cartoon story of each creation story.
- Students could create tableaux representing each of the creation stories.

Grade 4 Social Studies Learner Outcomes

Knowledge

- An understanding of Native lifestyles before European influence

Skills

- Organize information by classifying
- Express ideas
- Participate cooperatively

Attitude

- Appreciation of and tolerance toward the decisions made by Albertans in different times and under different circumstance

Safe and Caring Topics and Concepts

- **Respecting Diversity and Preventing Prejudice**
 - Recognizing and appreciating that individuals, families and cultures are unique
 - Building respect for diversity

Teaching Strategies

Go to www.sacsc.ca/strategies for strategy descriptions	Cooperative Learning	Inquiry Learning	Direct Instruction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Think-pair-share		

Generalization and Transfer	Peer Teaching	Empathy/Affective Education	General Teaching Activities/Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Modeling			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brainstorming• Posters

Supplementary Resources

Marcotte, N. S. 1993 *Ordinary People in Alberta's Past* Edmonton, Alta: Arnold.

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to make

something

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time

belief:

**an explanation
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certain proof**

respect

to show

courtesy and

consideration

for others