

## Notes on the words of the Songs:

- ‘fireball’ - another (more appropriate) name for The Big Bang. Bang often means ‘damage’ – talk about damaging bangs, e.g. bombs, car accidents, etc.
- 14 billion years ago ‘or so’ – ‘or so’ because scientists are not very sure, that could change.
- ‘out from one tiny spark’ – scientists can measure back to within 7 seconds of that event but so far they do not know where it came from or what caused it. (Believers will say it was God or the Divine that caused it).
- ‘came all there is today’ everything that is now in the Universe was present in potential then.
- Stars, Sun and Planets – Talk about galaxies...Milky Way, ‘One special star’, a first generation star – the sun, a 2nd generation star. Again, name planets.
- Planet Earth – Just the right distance from the sun. Talk about the four elements, earth/soil, air, fire and water. Life-forms – name some plants and animals.
- Water and Land – Name the oceans and continents.
- ‘Bacteria’ – Talk and find out about the three groups of microbes that exist on Earth: bacteria, protoctists, and fungi. Each of these is equivalent to the more familiar categories of plant and animal. Talk about how bacteria are the smallest of organisms, roughly two million times smaller than you are. Bacteria are everywhere in unbelievable numbers, no community of living organisms lack them.
- ‘green cells’ – A word about the process of photosynthesis, the way in which plants with chlorophyll can absorb sunlight and use it to manufacture food. We eat this food either from some part of plants (lettuce leaves, celery stalks, and carrots) or we eat the animals (cattle, sheep) that eat green plants.
- Life in the Water – Discuss each species mentioned. Ask for more names...
- Insects – Discuss facts of there being certain insects (also birds, mammals, plants) that we humans have been conditioned into seeing as ‘not nice’ because of how they may affect us. Teachers can show pictures of what we human beings perceive as being ‘good/nice’ and ‘bad/nasty’ creatures, and note the responses, e.g. ‘aahh’ and ‘ugh’.
- ‘Reptiles’ – Help students to understand the true nature of these great creatures. Despite the grisly way of dealing with prey, crocodile mothers are remarkably protective, almost tender, in their care of the young. What else do you know about reptiles, are they carnivores or herbivores? Do they live and die in the water?
- ‘Mammals’ – Distinguishing characteristics of mammals, warm-blooded, carry their young in their bodies; feeding them, usually have fur/hair/blubber. Huge diversity – how many can you name and draw.

- Birds – Distinguish between ‘trilling’ and thrilling. List native birds and ‘visitors’.
- Trees and Flowers – Discuss the importance of planting trees to all of us. Discuss ways in which seeds are scattered (wind, water, animals and birds). Name ones associated with different seasons. Use art. Discourage the children from picking leaves and flowers from living plants.
- Humans – also mammals. How recent we are – first human forms and then 40-70 thousand years ago homo-sapiens (the wise/thinking man/woman). If all of creation were to be fitted in one year, the human came into being late on the last day of the year!
- Earth from Space – The wonderful achievement of July ’69 – the human stepping on the moon but equally spectacular was the first sight of earth from space on Christmas Eve in 1968. With all the arguments, pro and con, for going to the moon, no one suggested that we should do it to look at Earth. But that may, in fact, have been the most important reason of all! (Joseph P. Allen, former astronaut).
- Cleaner and Greener – Objectives of Green Schools Programme, Community Recycling Projects. Encourage students to avoid wasting water, heat, etc.
- To all things being fair – believing that we are not the only inhabitants of this earth, giving fair play to all. Note and support the Fair Trade movement, and ethical buying. Source the Ethical Consumer, discuss various products and the impact their production has on people and other life forms.
- ‘The Universe Story’ – Our ‘new’ creation story...its mystery unfolds for us because we still do not know all there is to know. Perhaps in a few years time...! From stardust..one earth and all on it, including us, evolved from that first special star that scattered its dust into space. Stress all of us – plants, animals, humans together enjoying our earth home. ‘One Sacred Earth family’ is our community (Thomas Berry). Earth is our home: The word ecology has its origins in the Greek work *oikos* which means home or household. Ecology then is the study of home – our earth home. Web of life – explain how a web works, every strand helps strengthen the whole, each connected to the other.
- Praise to our Creator – ‘Praise to you Spirit’ perhaps better than ‘praise to you God’ where there is a mixture of cultures and religions in schools. The presence of this Spirit in Nature – explore how we experience the Spirit in the natural world, and how it has been written about in nature poetry, literature, music, etc.