

# The Story of the Universe: Script

In the beginning, before time or space  
before sun, stars or planets,  
before skies or landscapes,  
before plants, animals or humans  
there was absolutely nothing, only emptiness...and silence

Then about 14 billion years ago, from one single point there was a flaring forth beyond all imagining. A huge fireball full of light, heat and energy burst forth releasing clouds of gases. (action) Out of the fireball came the seeds of everything that ever was or ever will be in the world. This event, sometimes called the 'Big Bang', was the beginning of the Universe. (song 1)

It took hundreds of millions of years for this fireball to cool down. Hydrogen and Helium were the first elements to be formed. From clouds of these gases, stars came spinning and whirling into existence, lighting up the darkness of space.

Stars gathered into clusters called galaxies. (action) Five billion years ago, in a galaxy that we call The Milky Way, one star - our mother star - was reaching the end of her life. She expanded and exploded into space. Out of the stardust that came from her, our solar system - the sun and the planets were born. (song 2 + action)

Planet earth, one of the eight in our solar system and called Gaia by ancient peoples, was the only planet to produce life, (song 3 + action). Over time she developed a protective atmosphere around herself. Land and water were formed on the surface. (song 4 + action)

Bacteria were the first living things to come into existence and they are still with us today. (song 5 + action)

Green cells learned to make food, using sunlight. (song 7 + action)

Then came all kinds of plants, worms and fish in the waters. (song 6 + action)

Gradually, life came out of the water and onto land.

Insects evolved 400million years ago. (song 8 + action)

Reptiles and dinosaurs roamed Earth. (song 9 + action)

215 million years ago mammals began to evolve. (song 10 + action)

150 million years ago the first birds flew and filled the air with song. (song 11 + action)

120 million years ago trees and flowers brought colour & fragrance to our earth. (song 12&13 + action)

Humans were a late arrival on Earth, coming two and a half million years ago.

(song 14)

They formed languages and told stories. They began to tame animals and to cultivate the land. They lived with a respect for nature.

There are peoples in the world who, even to this day, have known that they were part of the natural world. We know that here in Ireland, our own ancestors understood this and celebrated it in their festivals throughout the year. (action)

Civilisations and religions developed and flourished. Spiritual and moral leaders emerged and showed by example how we might live in harmony with each other and with nature. (action)

People have always asked questions about life and how it began. Down through the years scientists, artists, poets, mystics and many other spiritual people have been trying to answer such questions.

In ancient time, Greek astronomers believed that Earth revolved around the sun. In the Middle-Ages, Copernicus and Galileo proclaimed to the world that this was true. This discovery caused great excitement and was a huge step forward in our thinking. (action)

Space travel began in the 1950's and then, in the late sixties, three astronauts on their way to the moon looked back and saw earth from space for the first time. This was a wonderful moment, a wonderful sight! (song 15 + action)

This is the story of the Universe, the story of life on planet Earth. (song 16)

We now know who we are and how we began.

We now know that everything around us - landscape plants, animals have come from that fireball 14 billion years ago.

We now know that everything in our planet home belongs to one sacred earth family.

We also know that there is much that we do not know.

Who knows what may yet evolve? (song 17)

There have been great discoveries, developments and inventions in our world, especially in recent years. Sadly, not all of these have been kind to our earth home. Wars, dangerous technologies and some modern farming practices have caused suffering to our planet and to all that live on her. Rachel Carson, an American scientist, was one of the first to make us aware of this. Her book, *Silent Spring*, written in 1963 described how we humans through our use of pesticides and other chemicals were damaging life on Earth. (action)

Now that we know the story of the Universe, the time has come for us humans to

- open our eyes to the beauty of our Earth home and to get to know it better
- speak out on behalf of those species whose voices we don't listen to
- make changes in the way we live so that all species can live together in peace and justice on this planet. (song 18)