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UNIT ONE:

SPACESHIP EARTH AND THE WEB OF LIFE

Earth was created as a “garden of delight.” It was not a corrupt place in the beginning. In this unit, we’ll learn what happened to our home to cause bad things to happen, what’s in store for our planet, and what we need to be doing in the meantime. We’ll explore some of the different “rooms” of our home and find out about the flora and fauna in each.

Building on the Right Foundation; Seeing the 4 Cs

If you don't live in the country, I hope you have a yard, school grounds, or park nearby, where you can watch flowers blooming, dragonflies chasing each other, or little birds learning how to fly. Maybe there's a pond, or even a ditch, where you can play with the turtles or watch tadpoles sprout legs and grow into frogs.

You may have thought that the building where you live is your home. But God meant for the whole world to be our home! He created a garden of "delight" (the word *Eden* means "delight") as the home for our first parents, Adam and Eve. God told them and all living things to "multiply and fill" all the wonderfully different "rooms" or environments in our marvelous garden home, the earth.

Ecology is the "study of" (-logy) our "home" (*eco-* or *oikos* in Greek).

Ecologists study the plants and animals on earth and their environments. To get the most enjoyment from our home,

MYSTERIES OF LIFE

1. Did God create bad things?
2. Why is there pain, death, and suffering?
3. What does the future hold for earth?

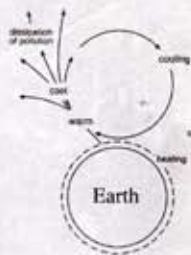
Can You Provide the Explanations?



Questions

Building on the Right Foundation; Seeing the 4 Cs

1. God created our home, the earth, as a “garden of _____” (the meaning of the word “Eden”).
2. What word means “the study of [our] home”?
3. If God created our home in peace and harmony, why do we have mosquitoes, disease, death, and disaster?
4. God’s original stewardship ecology command was to “till and _____”; in our fallen (sin-ruined) world, the command, following Christ’s example, might be to “heal and _____.”
5. Catastrophe, Christ, Corruption, Creation: Put this alphabetized list of the “four Cs” of earth history in correct order from first to last.
6. Associate each of the following with one of the “four Cs” of earth history:
 - a. billions of dead thing (fossils) buried in rock layers laid down by water all over the earth
 - b. struggle, disease, and death
 - c. a perfect world in the past with no pain, suffering, or death
 - d. a perfect world in the future, with no pain, suffering, or death
7. What belief says that time, chance, struggle, and death will go on for “millions of years” until finally death wins?
8. What book says that life wins when Christ comes to restore peace and joy forever?



EXPLORING
THE WORLD
AROUND YOU

It has been said that our planet is really just an insignificant speck in a vast universe, but that's not true! In fact, the conditions for life found on earth are supremely unique and make our life here comfortable. This despite the reality that the world around us is also tainted and in need of careful calibration in order to continue.

This scripturally founded book opens a window to the spectacular environments found on our planet, from deserts to the tropics, with respect to creationism. Researcher and biologist Dr. Gary Parker brings his vast knowledge of ecology to a teaching setting, exploring and explaining ecosystems, population growth, habitats, adaptations, energy problems, and much more. Learn about insect control in California, why mammals have fur, and how sharks maintain “friendships” with small fish known as remora.

Exploring the World Around You brings the varieties of our planet's habitats alive to the reader, and is a wonderful learning tool complete with illustrations, chapter tests, and an index.

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