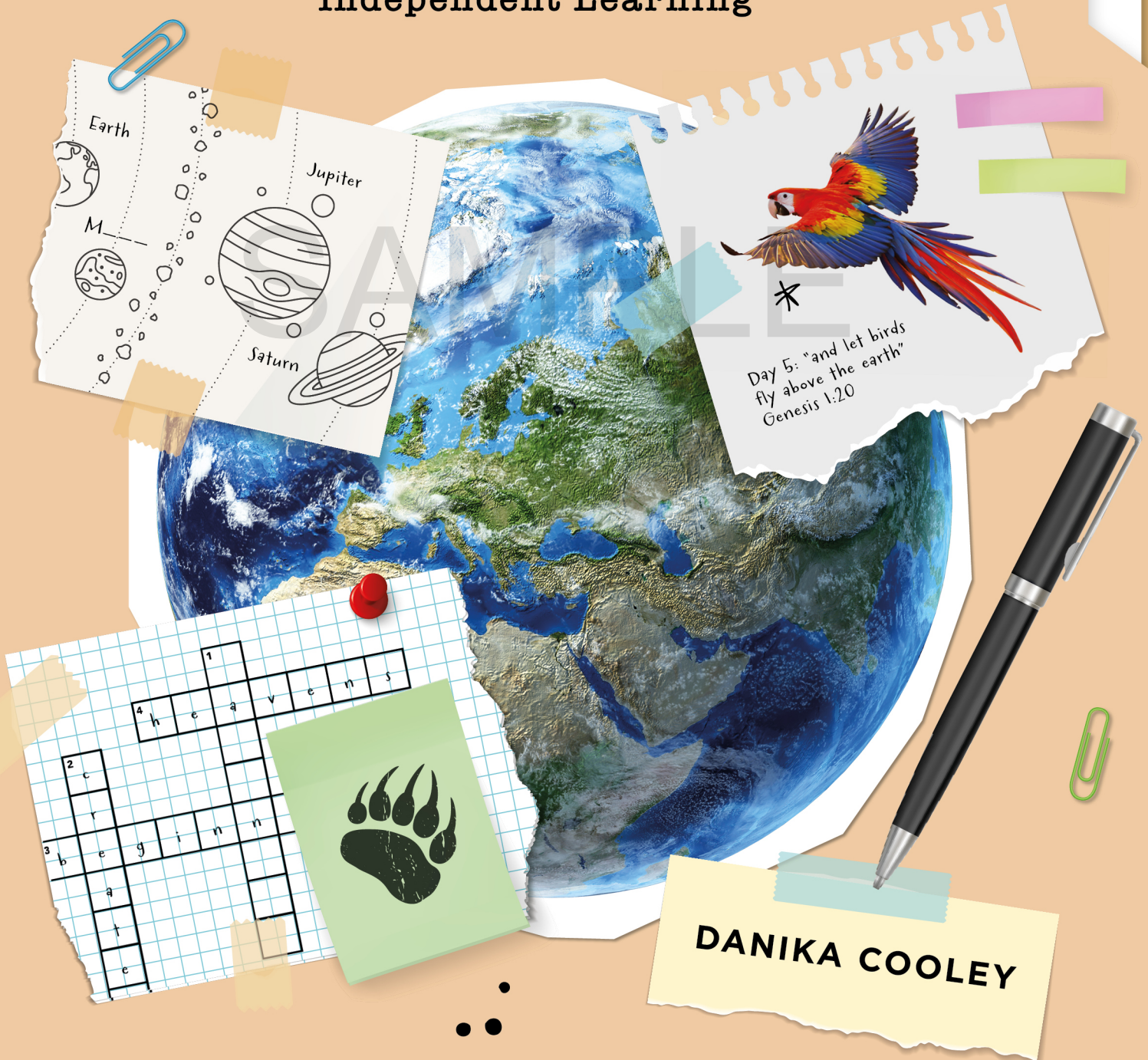


BIBLE INVESTIGATORS

Creation

FOR 8-12S

Puzzles and Activities for
Independent Learning



“Danika has created an exciting adventure for children to explore the Bible and Creation through problem-solving and creativity, developing thinking skills and foundational knowledge of God’s Word.”

JEANNIE FULBRIGHT, Award-Winning Author of Apologia’s creation science curriculum

“What a powerful way to get kids into the Scriptures and to fall in love with God’s Word. I’m very excited about the power this book will have on the hearts of children as they investigate the Scriptures. I’ve ordered copies of this book for my grandchildren.”

DR. SCOTT TURANSKY, National Center for Biblical Parenting; Author of *Parenting Is Heart Work*

“Through *Bible Investigators: Creation*, Danika Cooley brings us a valuable resource to help youngsters delve into the Scriptures themselves. It is the perfect way to introduce a personal Bible time for 8-12-year-olds, guiding the student through thoughtful text, Bible investigations, and creative activities.”

ISRAEL AND BROOK WAYNE, Authors and Speakers; familyrenewal.org

“*Bible Investigators: Creation* is a great resource for teaching tweens and preteens how to study the Bible for themselves! Danika Cooley opens up serious Bible doctrines in a fun, engaging way, showing young people how to read, interpret, and, best of all, apply the Word to daily life. Kids who complete this book will have a better understanding of some key Bible principles than many adults. You won’t find many resources that are both entertaining and solid—this one is! We highly recommend *Bible Investigators: Creation* for your family!”

HAL AND MELANIE YOUNG, Authors of *No Longer Little: Parenting Tweens with Grace and Hope*

“I am always impressed when someone comes up with a new way of introducing children to the Bible. And this book is very impressive indeed. Filled with puzzles and challenges, it invites readers to explore some themes of Genesis, helps them to come to grips with some very sophisticated theological ideas, and equips them with the tools to understand the rest of the Bible too.”

BOB HARTMAN, Author of *YouVersion’s Bible App for Kids* and *The Prisoners, the Earthquake, and the Midnight Song*

“There’s no better way to appreciate Creation than by being creative yourself! Using unique and challenging activities, Danika Cooley teases your brain, spurs your critical thinking skills, and propels you into fresh revelation about the world, God’s plan, and your own future. With every page turn, you can expect the unexpected!”

JAY PAYLEITNER, Speaker; Author of *52 Things Kids Need from a Dad*, *The Next Verse*, and *Hooray for Grandparents!*

“When I was a kid, memorizing Scripture felt like a chore. Danika is on to something special with this Bible Investigators resource: not only assisting kids to memorize verses, but also to understand them and apply them to their lives—in a totally FUN way. I’m going to buy these engaging books for every preteen I know!”

LISA TAWN BERGREN, Author of the *God Gave Us...* series

SAMPLE

Bible Investigators: Creation
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Published by:
The Good Book Company

thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk
thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz | thegoodbook.co.in



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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Cover design and “how to draw” illustrations by André Parker | Design and layout by the Good Book Company (André Parker, Ben Woodcraft and Drew McCall) based on original puzzles by Danika Cooley.

ISBN: 9781784989415 | JOB-007589 | Printed in India

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SAMPLE

INTRODUCTION

You Are a Bible Investigator!

You may not know it yet, but you are an investigator—a Bible investigator! It's a job that God gives to all people who love him, even kids. An investigator is a detective who looks for clues and who puzzles out the truth.

GOOD BIBLE INVESTIGATORS...

- › *Observe*: They pay attention to what they're reading.
- › *Interpret*: They figure out what the Bible means in that section.
- › *Apply*: They decide how the truth of God's Word impacts their life today.

There are a great many truths in life to be found—some interesting, some boring, and some that really matter. You can be the kind of investigator who spends time puzzling out important truth so that you can know a lot of the knowable knowledge that God has given us. That's right. God, the Creator of the universe, gave you a great big letter from him to explore and study so that you can discover the truths that really matter to your life!

In God's letter to you, the Bible, God tells you who he is, who you are, all about his great big plan for salvation, and how you can live for Jesus. The Bible is also a book of history: not boring history, with weird dates and dry descriptions, but an exciting story about the Ruler of all things and his people.

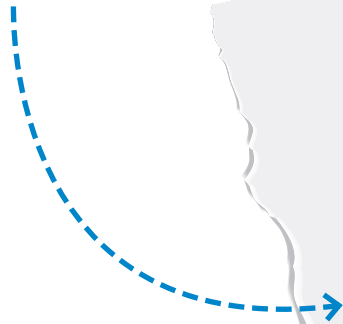
This Bible-investigator book is all about *Creation*. Why is *Creation* capitalized? Well, that's because *Creation* was a one-time event that happened at a specific time and place in history. God's story about *Creation* is told in Genesis 1 – 3. Those three chapters will help you learn how God created all things. God also put clues all over the Bible to help you understand more about him and his amazing creation. *Creation* that isn't capitalized refers to all the nouns—people, creatures, plants, and even planets—that God created.

This book of puzzles will help you really think about *Creation* Bible verses. Even better, this is a book of clues. Once you do the detective work to learn more about

how our Creator God created, you'll know some truths that really matter. Let's get started on this amazing puzzle God has given us.

MY INVESTIGATOR NOTEBOOK

- Draw yourself as an investigator.



- List some things you already know about God.

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a blue border, intended for writing. It is positioned below the first list item. A small grey paper clip is attached to the left side of the box.

- Write a short prayer thanking God for his amazing creation of all things.

A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a blue border, intended for writing. It is positioned below the second list item. A blue paperclip icon is attached to the right side of the box.

SECTION ONE

God Created Everything in the Beginning

CHAPTER 1: GOD CREATED ALL THINGS OUT OF NOTHING

An investigator or detective faces two very important questions:

- › First, *who* am I looking for?
- › Second, *what* did that person do?

Detectives start every investigation with clues about *what* happened. As Bible detectives, we want to learn *who God is*. But, we're going to start this investigation with *what God did*.

God tells us what he did in the beginning of time right at the very beginning of the Bible! In just a minute, you'll do a crossword puzzle to find the words to your first verse. As you work on it, think about what God tells you in those words.

As a Bible investigator, you'll notice that God was in the beginning. There was nothing before him. Nobody created God! You will also see, my detective friend, that God created *everything* out of *nothing*. Now, there is a very special term for this truth, which Bible investigators need to know. That term is in Latin. Why? Well, for a long time, the Christian Church used Latin as a way to make sure every *theologian* (that's a really big word for a Bible investigator who studies God) could understand every other theologian, no matter which language they spoke.

You don't need to speak Latin to be a Bible investigator. No one actually does *speak* it, because Latin is a dead language. Only some words are still used by theologians (Bible investigators!) and scientists. You can learn a few important terms, though, that will set you on the path to becoming a more skilled Bible investigator. Let's look at two Latin words.

- › *EX* — From or Out of
- › *NIHILO* — Nothing

Do you remember that God created all things from absolutely nothing? Theologians use *ex nihilo* to refer to the second part of our first verse: God tells us that he

made *everything* out of *nothing*. We've just started investigating, and you're already learning a secret code and finding new clues. You're pretty good at this Bible detective job!

MY INVESTIGATOR NOTEBOOK

Bible investigators don't just learn important truths—they share those truths with others. Think about sharing your new code words and the amazing work God has done with a sibling or a friend.

- Psalm 33:8-9 is a Bible clue that relates to your first Creation verse. Write out Psalm 33:8-9 from the Bible version of your choice.

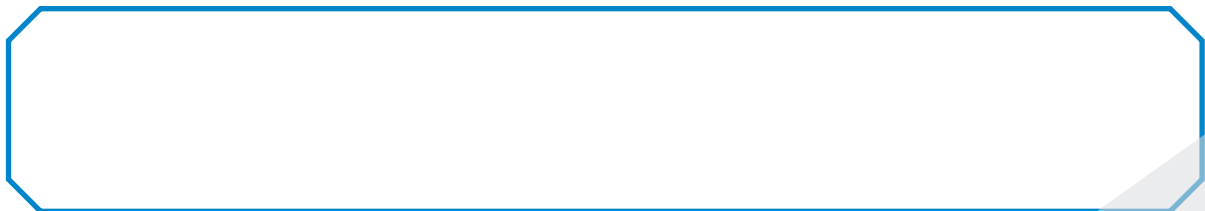


SAMPLE

- Take a walk outside and list or draw some of the things you see, which God created out of nothing. This week, remember to thank God for the world he made.

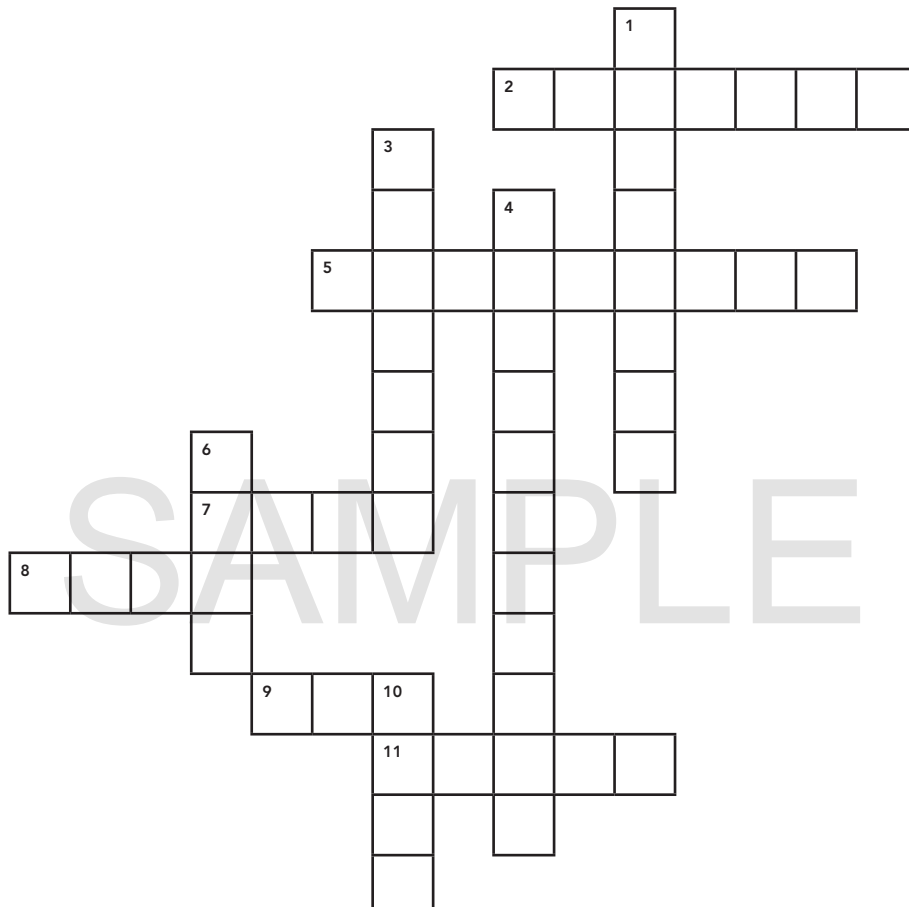


- List the important code words you just learned and what they mean!



CROSSWORD

Complete this crossword puzzle to find your first verse. Each clue is numbered. Place your answer in the appropriate *down* column or *across* row. Be sure to use a pencil in case you have to make any changes! Try this yourself first; then, if you're struggling, look up Genesis 1:1-2a in the ESV.



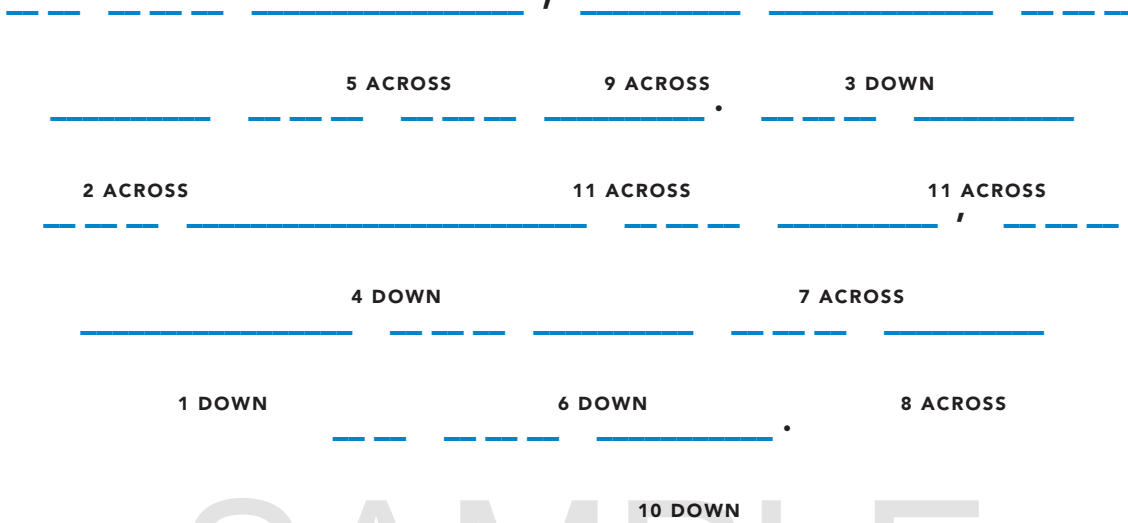
ACROSS

- (2) Everything above you—the sky, atmosphere, and universe
- (5) The starting point
- (7) A space that is empty, with nothing in it
- (8) A poetic way to say surface
- (9) The Creator, King of kings, and Lord of lords
- (11) The big place where you live in this even bigger universe

DOWN

- (1) Without light
- (3) Made something out of nothing
- (4) (Two words: 7 and 4) Not having order, unrecognizable, not designed
- (6) To be above
- (10) Very far down; sometimes used to describe the ocean

Now put the crossword answers in the labeled spaces and then fill in the rest of the words to write out Genesis 1:1-2a in the ESV.



MY INVESTIGATOR NOTEBOOK

A Bible investigator *observes* what the Bible says. Remember, pay close attention to what the words of the Bible tell you about God and his plan for salvation, humans and their need for a Savior, and Jesus’ commands for his followers.

- *Observe*: List everything you learned about God and the earth in Genesis 1:1-2a.

A Bible investigator *observes* what God’s Word says. Then, a good investigator *interprets* the Bible. What is God telling us in his Word? We don’t have to guess! *The Bible interprets the Bible*. That means that God often explains or comments on what he said in his Holy Spirit-inspired Word in another part of the Bible.

In Genesis 1:1-2a, we *observe* that God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was empty and dark and without form.

You copied Psalm 33:8-9, which helps you *interpret* Genesis 1:1-2a. Psalm 33:8-9 tells you to praise God because he spoke everything into existence. So when you praise and thank God for the wonderful things he has made, that is one way you can *apply* what you’ve learned in Genesis 1:1-2a.

You’re really becoming a Bible investigator now. You’re learning to connect clues so you can really understand what God is saying to us through his Word.

Let’s look at one more verse that tells us God really did create everything out of nothing. Do you remember your Latin code words for that truth? Write them below.

Wonderful! 

On the next page there is a rebus puzzle. It uses pictures and letters to form words or phrases.


For example, $L +$  $- B + ED$ becomes “looked”.

Figure out the best word for each picture, add or subtract the letters shown, and then write each word in the correct space to reveal a verse written by God’s prophet Jeremiah.

REBUS PUZZLE





----- was



SAMPLE



----- ; -----



----- they -----




----- . Jeremiah 4:23, ESV

MY INVESTIGATOR NOTEBOOK

In your own words, write definitions for the following terms:

- "Observe"



- "Interpret"



- "Apply"



God made the heavens and the earth. That may sound like he only created two things. But, the phrase "the heavens and the earth" is a *merism*.

A merism is a figure of speech—or a way of expressing an idea—that talks about two different concepts but also includes everything in between. So, "God created the heavens and the earth" means God made the heavens and the earth *and* everything in between.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble these words. When you figure each word out, write the letters in the bubbles to discover common merisms.

EESHNAV NDA RTAHE



NNNIGBEIG DAN NDE



WNO NDA TNHE



CIRH RO ROPO



EHER RO EHRTE



BREETT RO RSWOE



NUGYO OR DLO



SNSKEICS DAN TEHLHA



MY INVESTIGATOR NOTEBOOK

- Make a list of all the merisms you can think of!

- *Observe:* What does Genesis 1:1-2a teach us that God did? (Remember your Latin code words!)



- *Interpret:* You have also read Psalm 33:8-9 and Jeremiah 4:23. What did God do? How should we respond?



- *Apply:* Thank God for every weird or wonderful thing you see today.

