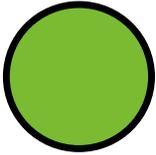


A C O S M I C S A N C T U A R Y

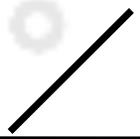
Insight One: Planet Earth is a sacred site in the cosmos

Name _____

Core Group _____



Identity and Creation



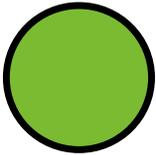
The identity of Adam

Why did God create Adam and put him in the Garden of Eden?

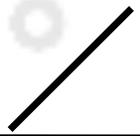
Why do you think it was not good for Adam to be alone?

What two responsibilities did God give to Adam?

How would you feel if you were given the same responsibilities?
Would you enjoy the responsibilities?



Identity and Creation

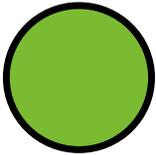


Do you think the phrase “Earth Being” is accurate?
Where have all the chemicals that make up your body come from?

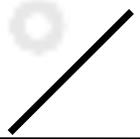
Do you think that Adam had a close relationship with the creation God put him in?
What sort of connection do you have with the creation God has put you in?

How is Adam both a created being and co-creator with God?

How do you think Adam and Eve felt when they were banished from the Garden of Eden? How do you think this affected their view of themselves?



Identity and Creation



Where do you see God's grace in Adam and Eve's banishment?

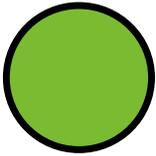
The identity of Job (Optional)

How does the story of Job make you feel?

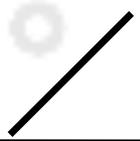
Does it seem fair that God allowed Satan to treat Job the way he does?

Have you ever felt unfairly treated?

What is the point of God's response to Job?



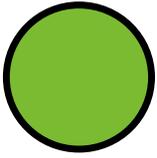
Identity and Creation



What does Job's response (Job 42:1-3) to God tell us about how God has changed Job's understanding of himself?

How does that vastness and beauty of the universe make you feel?
Is it something you think about very often?

How are Adam's and Job's identity linked to creation?



Your Universe

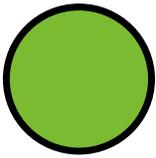
What were your initial impressions from the universe fly-through video?

What can we learn about God from looking at the vastness of the universe?

Halley's comet is approximately the same size as what Martian Moon?

What planet has a moon roughly the same size as our moon?

What planet is roughly the same size as the Minecraft world?



Your Universe

What stars are approximately the same size as the distance between the earth and the moon?

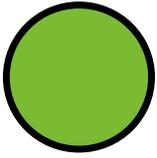
How far does light travel in a day?

What is the most distant man made object and how far has it travelled?

Do the “Pillars of Creation” still exist today?

How wide is the Milky Way Galaxy?

What is the local group and how big is it?



Your Universe

How many zero's are in a Yottameter?

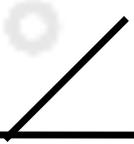
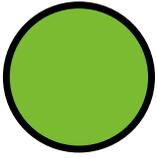
How far are we from the Hubble Deep Field?

How far away is the most distant object in the observable universe.

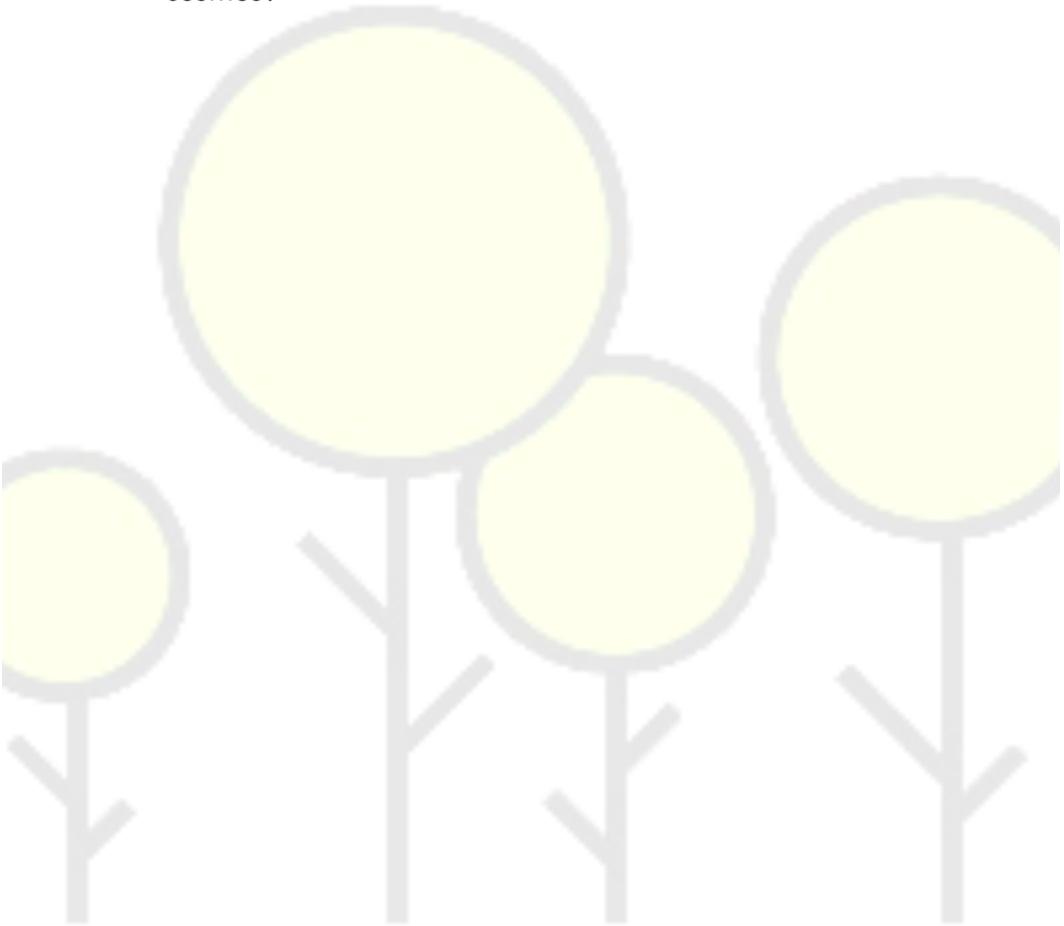
How much bigger is the observable universe than the earth?

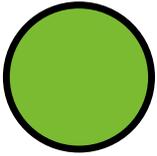
How do you view yourself in relationship to the vastness of creation?

How do you feel about your home in the universe knowing it is the only place that is able to sustain you?



Write a brief reflection about what you learned from the visit by the Astronomical Society of South Australia. What impressed you? What did you learn about our universe? What makes our planet unique among the cosmos?

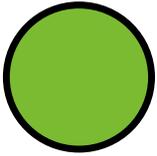




Your Creation

Now that we have looked at God's creation you are going to get the opportunity to create a living something of your own. You will be given a range of plants to create a small arrangement, however, you will have to provide the vessel that they are planted in. It could be a used Coke bottle, a plastic container, even an old shoe. Try to find something that is meaningful to you in some way.

After having planted your arrangement reflect on the process you undertook to create your "living creation."



Purtinga Reflections

As a class, go down to the Purtinga Wetlands and in small groups find a quiet place to reflect on the following questions. Share your answers with the class when you come back together.

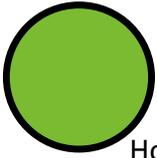
What did you hear, see, and feel when you first got to your place for reflection?

What sort of interactions are you aware of around you?

Do you feel connected or disconnected to the natural setting around you? Explain your answer?

What sort of threats exist that could damage the wetland?

What do we need to do to minimize those threats?



Purtinga Reflections

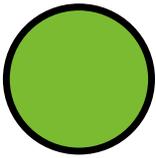
How is this space a unique space on our campus?

Who is responsible for sustaining this place?

Imagine you are a frog or an insect living in Purtinga. What sort of things help you to thrive and what threatens your survival?

Can you define what a sanctuary is and would you consider Purtinga to be a sanctuary?

Can you see any similarities between Purtinga as a sanctuary for animals in the middle of Mount Barker and Earth as a sanctuary for us in the cosmos?



Shalom

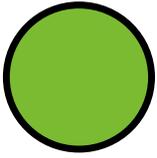
What is your class's definition for the word Shalom?

Where in the bible is Shalom achieved?

What two news articles described an instance that seemed to fit your definition of the word Shalom?

What two news articles described an instance where Shalom was lacking?

What type of article was easier to find?



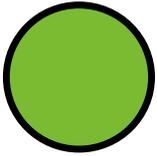
Shalom

Why do you think that is?

How does the reading from Revelation make you feel?

What does this passage say about God and his care for us and the Earth?

Do we have a part to play in bringing about 'Shalom'?



Giving of the plant

Now that your plant has survived for several weeks it is time to give it away. Just as God has entrusted us with a beautiful and unique sanctuary for us to thrive and grow now you will entrust your “sanctuary” to someone else.

On a separate sheet of paper, or on your computer, write a letter to the person you plan to give this planting to. Your letter should include some reflections about what you have learned over the last few weeks regarding identity, creation, the universe, and God. You can use the following prompts to help you write your letter:

- 1) *How do you feel about your place in creation and being an “earth-being?”*
- 2) *Why is earth special and what sort of responsibility do we have to take care of it?*
- 3) *What is the most interesting thing you learned about the universe over the last few weeks? Why was this aspect of creation special to you?*
- 4) *What did you feel or think about when you were at Purtinga reflecting on the natural world around you?*
- 5) *How does this planting represent the idea of Shalom?*
- 6) *How do you want the person to care for your creation?*