

Activity: Determining the truth!

1. Look up Genesis 2:4b-8, 15-33 in the Bible, or click this link to [Bible Gateway](#).
2. Open this article from Ian Elmer, providing critical insights into this text: [http://www.catholica.com.au/gc0/ie3/157 ie 170910.php](http://www.catholica.com.au/gc0/ie3/157_ie_170910.php)
3. 10 mins - Read the text and then read Ian's article, looking for the 'flecks of gold' (key sentences or phrases that you understand, which cause you to think 'Oh, I didn't know that – that gives me a new insight into the text'). Underline or highlight these 'flecks of gold'.
Tip: Sometimes Bible Commentaries can appear to be difficult to understand every word. Don't spend time trying to interpret what you don't understand but look for the parts that do make sense and give you significant insights into the text.
4. **10 mins** – On the following page, take the sentences below and cut and paste them into the appropriate column to show whether each statement is historical truth (there is evidence to show that this happened in history e.g. Jesus was born); factual truth (there is evidence to prove that this is literally true e.g. Christians have put together a book they call The Bible); religious truth (reveals truth about God); scientific truth (can be verified by science). Note: the colours don't mean anything but highlight each sentence.
Tip: If it is a fact then it can be verified by someone who has nothing to do with religion.

The book of Genesis is the first book in the Bible.

God creates the earth from a barren land, where no life existed.

God is creator and responsible for all creation.

Creation is still evolving today.

Different authors wrote the Bible, at different times in history.

Bible stories have all been translated into English.

This story tells us that it is God who breathed life into all of us, and the air within us is this same breath of God.

The most accurate translation of the term 'man' is actually 'earth creature' (a genderless term).

This is the story of God's relationship with people, and God's desire for human beings to flourish.

Physics tells us how the world was created.

This is the story of how every human being comes to life.

God's plan is for human beings to live in community and in relationship with one another, and not isolation.

Historical truth	Religious truth	Factual truth	Scientific truth

What do you notice?

Resource: See: Utilising the Triple T approach to see how Ian's article was used to help interpret this text appropriately by translating to adult understanding (to obtain meaning) and then translating to the classroom.

Activity B: Use a Biblical Commentary or go online to <http://www.mbfallon.com/> (Click on Old Testament and then click on Genesis 1 document). Use this information to find the 'flecks of gold' to interpret the other creation story (Genesis 1:1-2:4a). Create statements that could go into the page showing 4 types of truth (historical, factual, religious and scientific).