

THE OLD TESTAMENT EXERCISES

A – exercises

1. Look at a map of the world. Indicate where the Jewish people came from and how they arrived in Israel. Make a timeline of their migration as well.
2. What religions have share this creation myth? Show on a map where these religions are practiced today.
3. Why has the Bible had so much influence on the world?
4. Myths are stories in which an explanation is given for events that are hard to show through science. What events does this creation creation myth explain?
5. What existed in the beginning and what was the first thing that God created? How did he do this?
6. Why is a day of rest so important in these religions?
7. What was the goal of creation?
8. What does God look like according to the Old Testament creation myth?
9. Describe what you think the Garden of Eden looked like.
10. God gave humans the power to rule over all the plants, animals, and the land and seas. He saw that this was good. Do you think this was indeed good? Why do you think this?
11. Why were Adam and Eve sent away from the Garden of Eden? How were they punished? Was there anything positive about sending them away? Explain your answer.
12. What similarities do you see between the Old Testament and the creation myths of other cultures?

B - exercises

Look at a few websites that deal with this culture and choose one or two that have images, sounds or text that you think are useful for preparing your presentation. Before your presentation make a summary on a poster or a sketch of the Old Testament creation myth.

Choose one of the following exercises:

1. Make seven different pictures that show each day of the creation according to the Old Testament. Think carefully about what was already present before the first day of creation and what did not yet exist.

or

2. You are a small group of people who live in a village far away from anybody else. You are looking for rules that say how you should and should not behave. Imagine that this creation myth was just discovered in your village. What rules would you use and what rules would you not use. Make a list of these rules on a poster. Explain during your presentation why you made the choices you made.

C - exercises

A myth can also contain rules for how people are supposed to behave. What behavioral rules can you find in this myth? Do you agree with these?