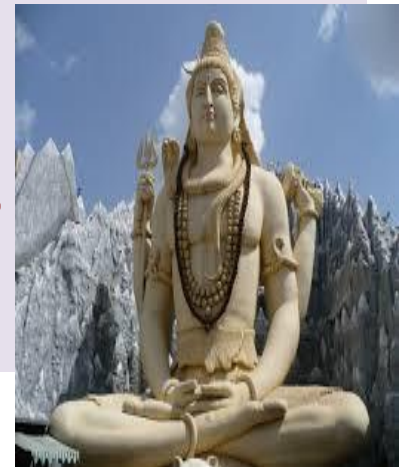# Title: Arguments for the existence of God
LO: To understand and evaluate some reasons that people have for believing or not believing in God

Please choose & complete one of the following:

1. I believe in God because ……

2. I don't believe in God because…

In the following lessons we will be discussing:

❖ 1. Believing or not believing in God

❖ 2. What is God like? (exploring 'God as a person')

❖ 3. If God is personal, who is he/she? (God's identity)

❑ 3 students will give presentations speaking about their views on the above

❑ All of us will prepare for these

   presentations.

Reminder:
A good argument…

- … is not a lie (i.e. which means 'not true')
- …has a good explanation that makes sense
- …provides evidence (i.e. reasons explained in detail, examples from real life, facts etc.)
- … is the truth in a way that can be applied in the moral world (i.e. helps us chose between right and wrong)
- …is convincing!

God exists because the beauty and complexity of the world mean that someone has designed it

- Think of a watch. Has someone made it or was it created by chance? Why?

- Think of the world. Has someone made it or was it created by chance? Why?

God exists because the universe cannot come from nothing

- Matter always has a beginning and an end.
- Whereas spirit, by definition is eternal.
- Everything material within our experience has an origin.
- The universe must also have a cause which some people consider to be God.
- God by definition needs no cause as he is spirit and so is eternal.

- **Can you think of something that comes from nothing?**

God exists because people have experienced his presence

- Some people claim that they have had a religious experience such as a miracle, a vision, an out-of-body experience or a prayer to God answered.

- Therefore God exists.

God doesn't exist because a good and powerful God would not allow people to suffer
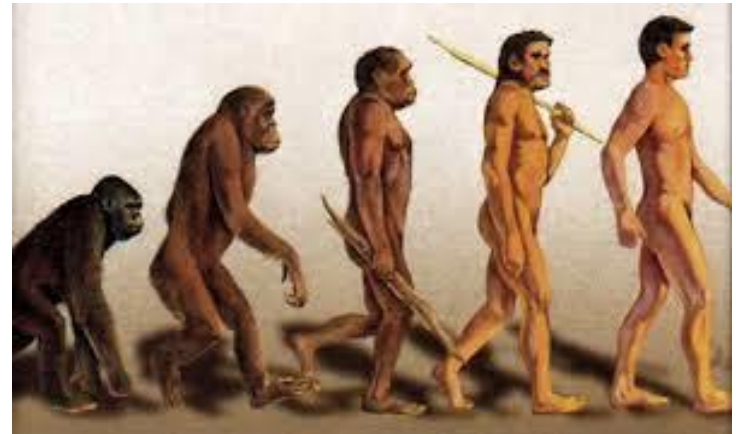
- If God is powerful….

- If God is kind….

- If God knows past, present and future….

…WHY IS THERE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?

There is no evidence for God's existence…

….but there is evidence that God is NOT the creator (i.e. the big-bang theory and Darwin's theory of evolution)

Look at some reasons for/against the existence of God. In two paragraphs include:

a) copy the argument that convinces you most and explain why you think it is a good argument

(b) copy the argument you find least convincing and explain why you think it is a bad argument

ALERT:
This work will be part of your final presentation!!!

LO: To explain what it means for God to be a person

Complete briefly the following:

o My name is:…..

o Three words to describe my appearance are……

o Three words that describe my character are ……..

o My three main activities are……..

o My three most important relationships are……….

Is God a person?

If God is a person he/she must also have:

- Name

- Form

- Character /Qualities

- Activities

- Loving Relationships

- If God is a person, does it mean God is a human?
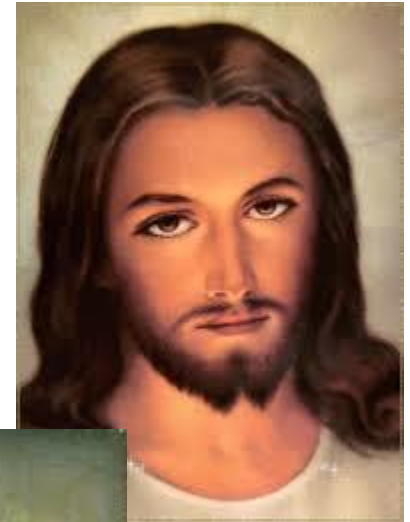
Is God non-personal?

- What do we mean when we say, 'God is not a person?'

Think of three words that describe a non-personal God (i.e. light)

Do you agree or disagree?

(a) God is a person because only a person can be a creator

(b) Because there are so many names and forms of God, it makes sense to say that God has no name or form at all. Then everyone will be happy!

LO: To reflect on the identity of God

- Why are there so many names and forms of God?
- Why do people disagree about who is God?

What is your personal view about God?

- **Time for the presentations and debate!**

Homework for next week:
Get into groups to prepare for next week's project. The topic is 'Creation' and each group will concentrate on one view from three options:
(a) the Christian view of creation
(b) the Hindu view
(c) The scientific or Secular (non-religious) view

For your homework, please complete at least questions 1, 2 3 and 4 from your worksheet (7.3.5a). Write down your answers, so you can use them for your project.