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## WELCOME TO




## GOD'S DESIGN<sup>®</sup> FOR HEAVEN & EARTH



**Y**ou are about to start an exciting series of lessons on earth science. *God's Design<sup>®</sup> for Heaven and Earth* consists of three books: *Our Universe*, *Our Planet Earth*, and *Our Weather and Water*. Each of these books will give you insight into how God designed and created our world and the universe in which we live.

No matter what grade you are in, first through eighth grade, you can use this book.




### 1st–2nd grade

Read only the “Beginner” section of each lesson, answer the questions at the end of that section, and then do the activity in the  box (the worksheets will be provided by your teacher).

### 3rd–5th grade

Skip the “Beginner” section and read the regular part of the lesson. After you read the lesson, do the activity in the  box and test your understanding by answering the questions in the  box.

### 6th–8th grade

Skip the “Beginner” section and read the regular part of the lesson. After you read the lesson, do the activity in the  box and test your understanding by answering the questions in the  box. Also do the “Challenge” section in the  box. This part of the lesson will challenge you to go beyond just elementary knowledge and do more advanced activities and learn additional interesting information.

Everyone should read the Special Features and do the final project. There are also unit quizzes and a final test to take.

Throughout this book you will see special icons like the one to the right. These icons tell you how the information in the lessons fit into the Seven C's of History: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation. Your teacher will explain these to you.

Let's get started learning about God's design of our amazing universe!



UNIT

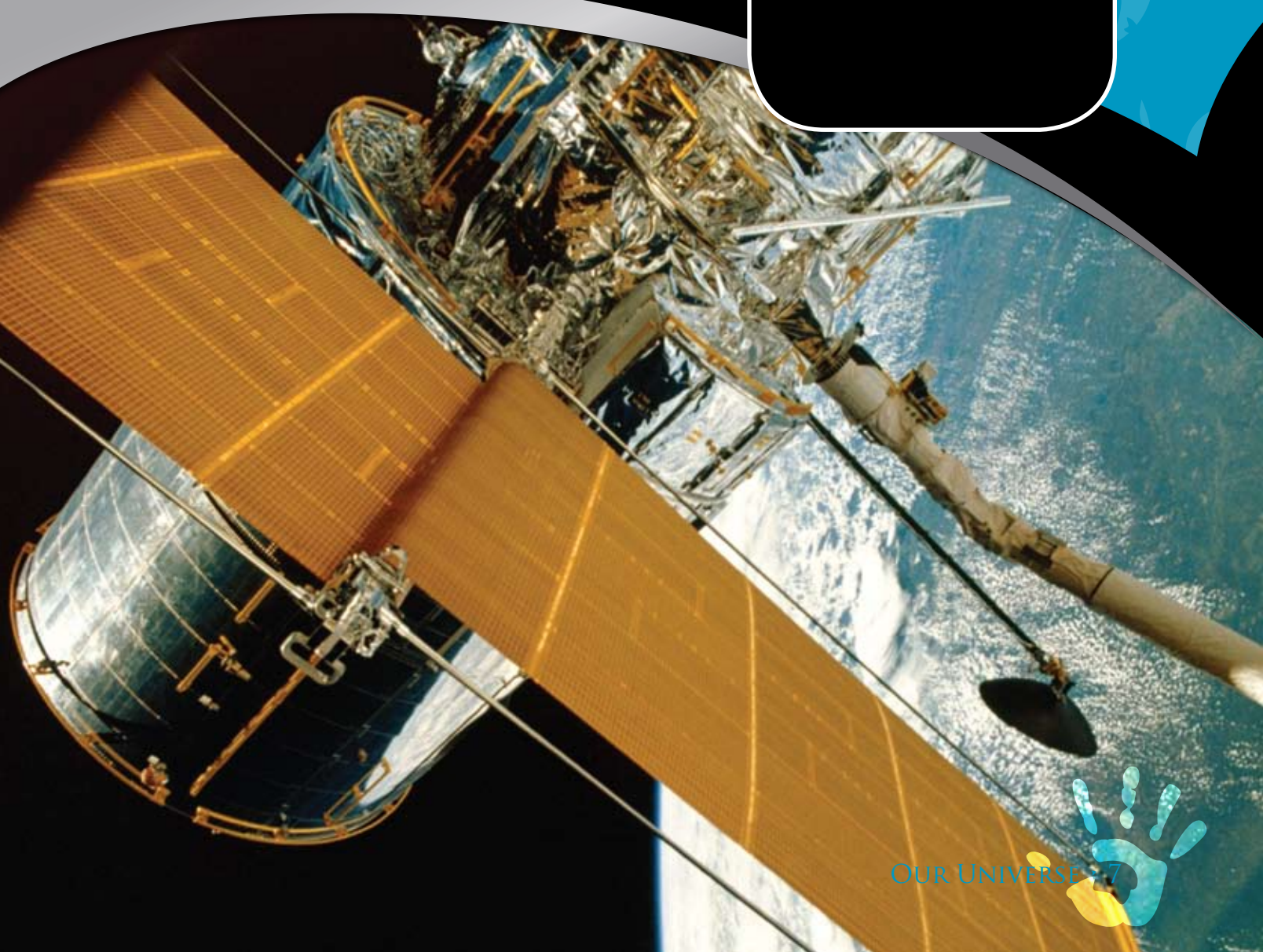
# 1

## SPACE MODELS & TOOLS

- ◇ **Identify** models used to understand the universe.
- ◇ **Describe** how models are used in science.
- ◇ **Describe** how lenses and mirrors are used to explore space.

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KEY CONCEPTS | UNIT LESSONS



# INTRODUCTION TO ASTRONOMY

Study of space

LESSON

1



**What is astronomy  
and why should  
we study it?**

## **Words to know:**

astronomy  
big bang theory

## **BEGINNERS**

**W**hen you look to the sky during the day, what is the brightest thing you see? The sun, of course. But at night, you do not see the sun. Instead, you see the moon and the stars. The planet we live on, earth, is part of something bigger than just this planet. The earth is just one planet in our solar system, and the sun is just one star in the universe. The Bible tells us that the sun, moon, and stars were created by God on the fourth day of creation.

We are getting ready to learn all about the universe and the things that God has put there. This study is called **astronomy**, and you are going to learn all about the planets, the sun, the moon, the stars, and much more. So get ready to learn about our universe.

- **What is astronomy?**



**P**salm 19:1 says, “The heavens declare the glory of God.” Since the Bible is always true, we should want to study and understand the heavens so that we can better understand God’s glory. The study of the heavens is called astronomy. **Astronomy** is the study of the planets, moons, stars, and other things found outside of the earth. In this book you will learn about these things and many other things in the universe as well.

Have you ever looked at the stars and wondered what they were or how they got where they are? Have you ever observed the movement of the sun through the sky and wondered how it moves like it does? Then you are asking some of the same questions that astronomers have asked for hundreds of years. Scientists cannot prove where the universe came from. A popular theory among some scientists is the **big bang theory**—that all that exists in our universe came from a cosmic explosion about 14 billion years ago. However, in Genesis 1:14–19, the Bible says that God created the sun, moon, and stars on the fourth day of creation, so we know how the sun, moon, and stars got where they are—God created them. Many of the other questions have been answered by scientists as they have observed the universe and studied how things move and work together. In this book, you will learn many of the things that astronomers and other scientists have discovered as well as many things that the Bible has to say about the universe that we live in. ■



## GOD’S PURPOSE

Complete the “God’s Purpose for the Universe” worksheet.

### WHAT DID WE LEARN?

- What is astronomy?
- Why should we want to study astronomy?

### TAKING IT FURTHER

- What is one thing you really want to learn during this study?
- Write your question or questions on a piece of paper and save it to make sure you find the answers by the end of the book.



## KNOWLEDGE OF THE STARS

Astronomy comes from two Greek words, which mean “knowledge of the stars.” What knowledge do you have of the stars? Test your knowledge of the stars by completing the “Knowledge of the Stars” worksheet. Try to find the answers to the questions you are not sure of in any books you may have on astronomy or on the internet.

