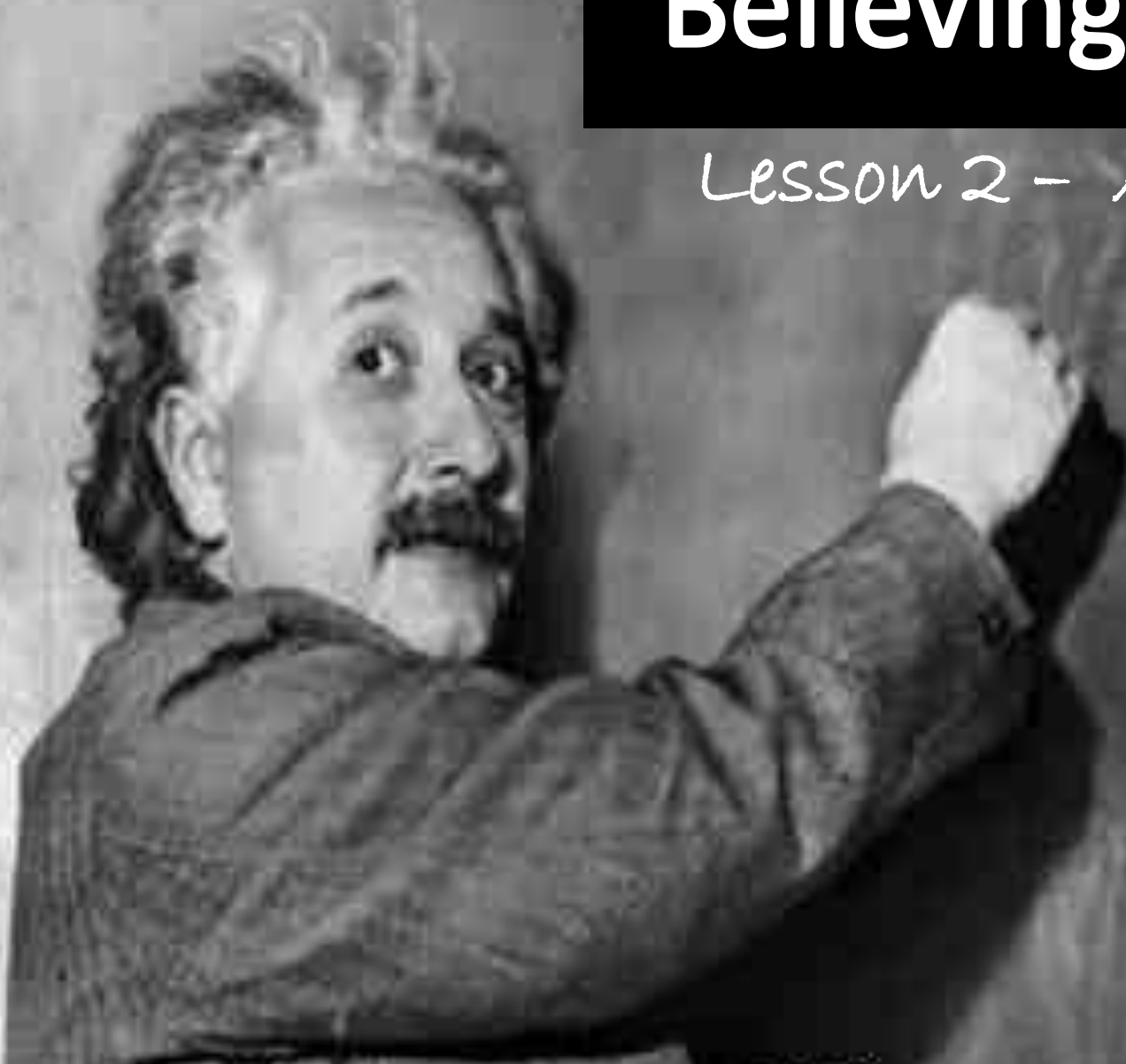


Believing in God

Lesson 2 - Atheist,
Theist or
Agnostic?





OBJECTIVE:

The aim of this lesson is to use famous people from history to understand more about atheists, agnostics, theists and the nature of God



OUTCOMES...

All - will be able to explain why Dawkins and Darwin held the beliefs they did

Most - will be able to give an argument from the point of view of an atheist, agnostic or theist

Some - will be able to use the clips to work out the Nature of God for themselves

Your GOALS for the end of this lesson are...



STARTER – FACT OR FICTION?



FACT

FICTION

Imagine that ONE side of the room represents FACT and the other FICTION.

You will be asked to decide whether you think something is FACT, FICTION or something in-between.

Everybody Stand up!

You must place yourself appropriately for the following....

SANTA CLAUS

GHOSTS

OXYGEN

THE DEVIL

ALIENS

Warning!

You **MUST** be able to give a reason **WHY** you have stood where you have!



WHAT DO YOU THINK?



FACT

FICTION

Draw the above diagram into your books...

Now think about *GOD!*

Mark the following on to your diagram and label them.

THEISTS believe God is...

ATHEISTS believe God is...

AGNOSTICS believe God is...

Finally...

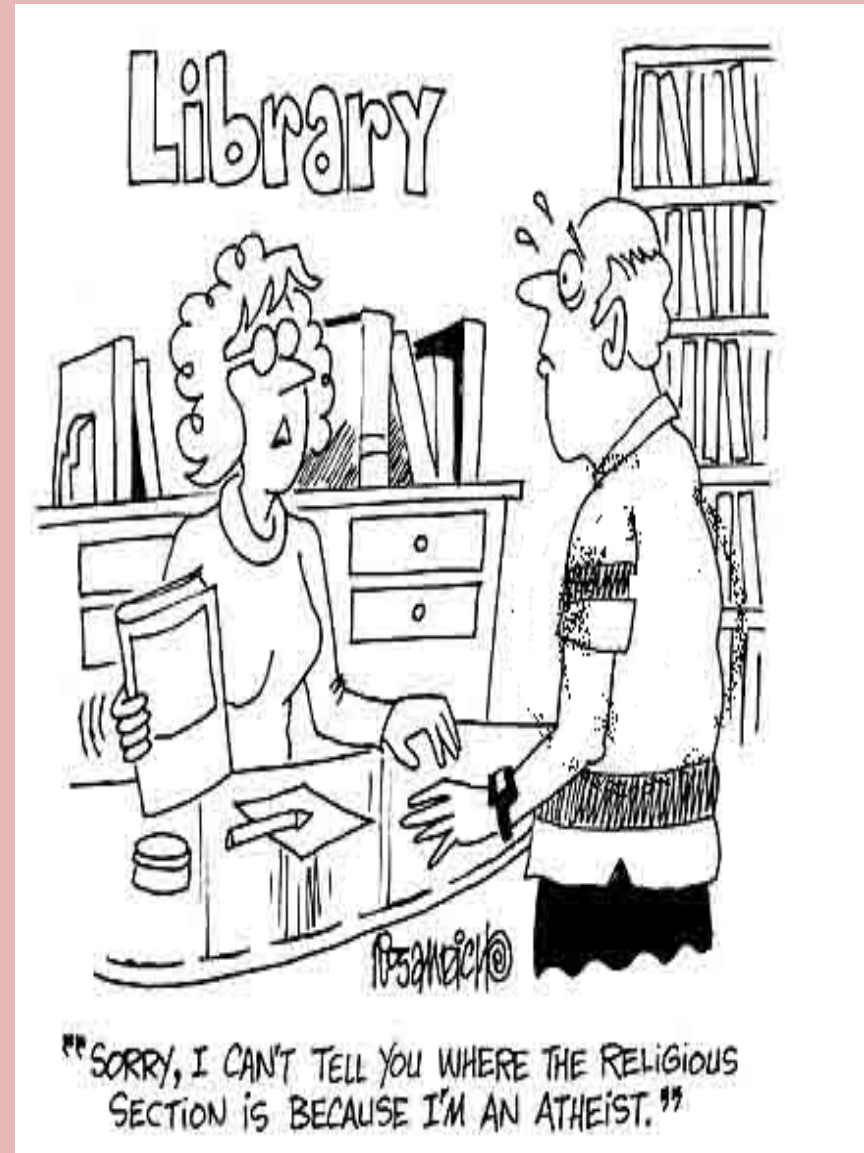
I believe God is.... Because....

What do
other
people
think?



ATHEISTS

- They believe that science has provided evidence of how the universe began
- They are convinced that everything that happens can be explained scientifically
- They are convinced that if there was a God, he/she would not have created a world where evil exists
- They have not seen any evidence in their daily life or experience
- They see all the suffering and disease in the world and this makes them feel that a loving God would not allow suffering



Richard Dawkins

Richard Dawkins is a British evolutionary biologist and popular science author.

Dawkins is an atheist. In his 2006 book *The God Delusion*, Dawkins argues that a supernatural creator almost certainly does not exist and that faith qualifies as a delusion.

As of January 2010, the English language version had sold more than 2 million copies and had been translated into 31 other languages.



Most people, I believe, think that you need a *God* to explain the existence of the world, and especially the existence of life. They are wrong, but our education system is such that many people don't know it.

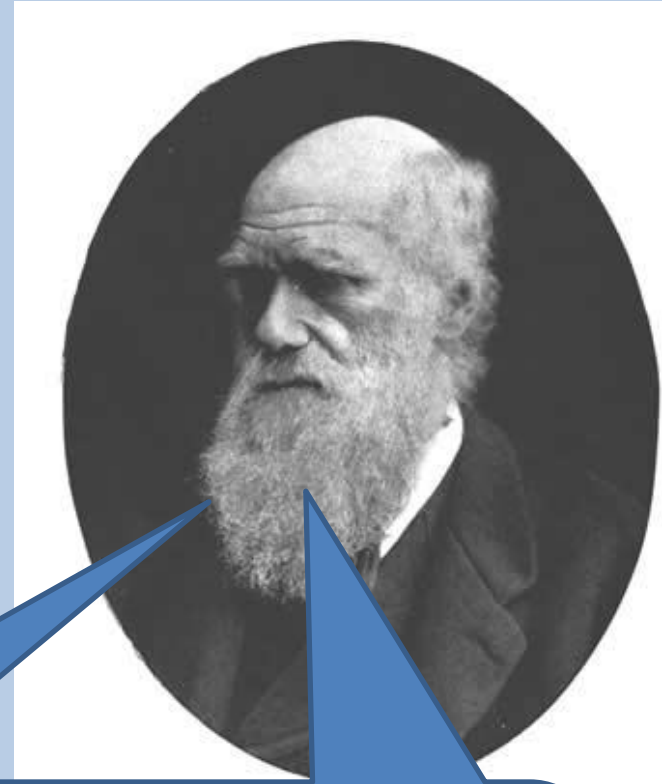
Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.

AGNOSTICS

- An agnostic is a person who feels that God's existence can neither be proved nor disproved, on the basis of current evidence
- Agnostics note that some people have tried to prove that God exists and others have attempted to prove that God does not exist
- Agnostics feel that neither side has convincingly succeeded at their task

Charles Darwin

Most famous for his theory of evolution, he said:

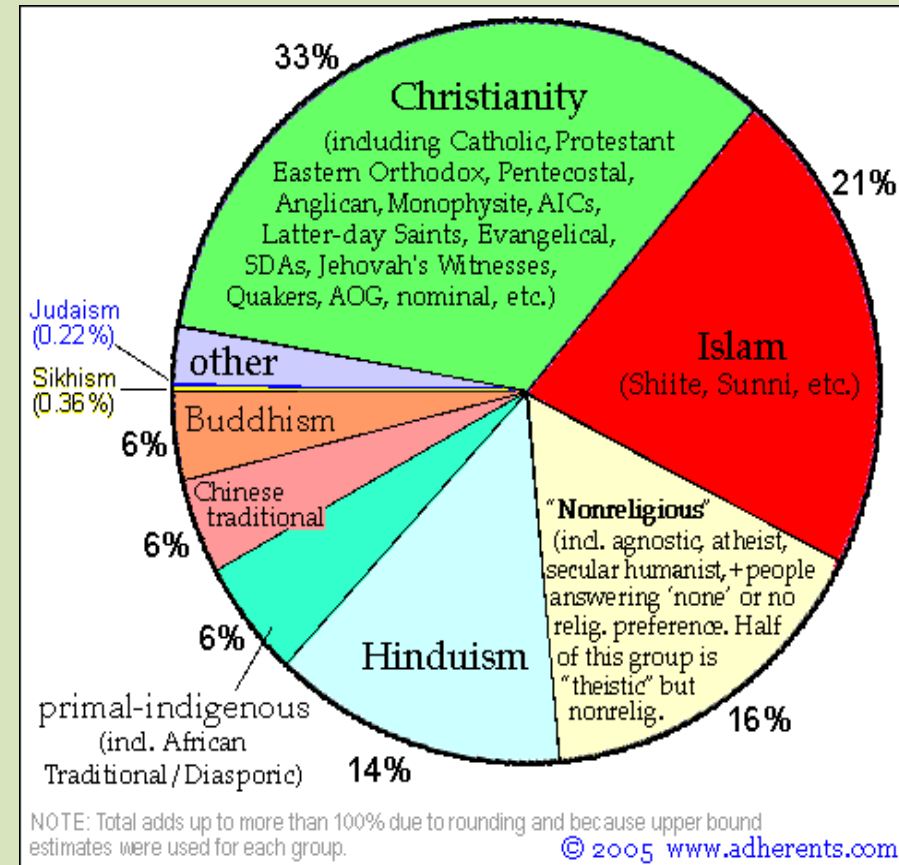


I think an Agnostic would be the more correct description of my state of mind. The whole subject [of God] is beyond the scope of man's intellect.

The mystery of the beginning of all things is unsolvable by us; and I for one must be content to remain an Agnostic.

THEISTS

- A theist is someone who believes that God exists.
- There are many theistic religions in the world each claiming different things about God.
- Some of these religions are: Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism.
- Look at the pie chart to see how many theists there are in the world.



THEISTS

Christian beliefs about God...



Watch the following clips...

They show a Christian idea of God.

What qualities/characteristics does *God* have in each of these clips?

Make a list in the back of your books.





DIVX
VIDEO

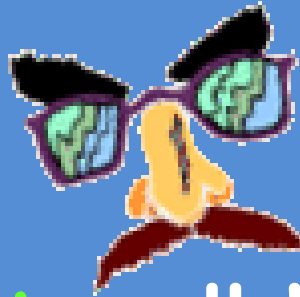


GOD

KEY WORDS

Add these
cheats onto
your key
words sheet
to help you 😊

Key words with 'easy cheats'



Omniscient - all knowing
(scientists think they know everything)

Omnipotent - all **powerful**

Omni benevolent - all good /
all loving *('love' backwards)*



THEISTS

Christian beliefs about God...

A Christian believes that:

- God created the world
- People can have a relationship with God
- He answers prayers and performs miracles
- God is OMNIPOTENT (all- powerful), OMNISCIENT (all-knowing), and OMNI-BENEVOLENT (all- loving)
- Belief in God gives meaning to life and helps people to answer difficult questions about death and suffering.
- God is made up of 3 parts - this is known as the TRINITY...



TASK...

- On your worksheet are 3 sets of discussions
- In each discussion one argument has been given for you
- Your task is to write what the other person would say in reply
- This will show that you understand what each group of people believe about God



PLENARY PYRAMID...

One question you have about (or linked with) the lesson?

Complete the PLENARY PYRAMID in the back of your books...

List 3 new things you have learnt today?

What have you been reminded about this lesson?