

REVERENCE

FOR

CREATION

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All things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth (Moses 6:63).

The heavens and the earth were created by Jesus Christ under the direction of Heavenly Father. Everywhere you look you can see all that They created for you. The sun, stars, seas, animals, trees, flowers, fruits, vegetables, and all else show that you have a Heavenly Father and a Savior who love you (see Moses 6:63). It pleased Them to create the earth and all the things upon it to bless you and help you be happy (see Doctrine and Covenants 59:18–20).

Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ created Adam and Eve, the first man and woman on earth, and placed them in a beautiful garden called Eden. Adam was commanded to take care of the garden (see Moses 3:15) and to name "every living creature" (see Moses 3:19).

You are part of Adam's family, and you, too, can help care for the earth. You can plant a flower, a tree, or a garden to make the earth more beautiful. Plants also provide oxygen, food, and shelter. You can help save water and food by not using more than you need. You can help to keep the earth clean and beautiful by picking up litter wherever you see it.

You can care for the animals by being kind to them and providing food and shelter for them. They are our friends and helpers, given to us for our benefit and use and to gladden our hearts (see Doctrine and Covenants 59:16–18). Some help us work, some give us

food and fiber for clothing, and many give us affection and companionship as pets.

You can thank Heavenly Father for these blessings when you pray. When you care for the plants and animals of the earth, you are showing your gratitude and reverence for these wonderful creations.

INSTRUCTIONS

Use the bottom of a small shoe or gift box to create a garden. You may also use a stiff piece of paper or a piece of cardboard. If you are using a box, cut one side away from the box. Color the bottom of the box, the piece of paper, or the piece of cardboard green. Mount page 45 on lightweight cardboard; color each picture, then cut them all out. Fold back the tabs along the dotted lines. Glue the tab of each garden piece to the green surface in any arrangement you wish. If you are using a box, you may wish to color sky, clouds, and a sun on the inside ends and back.

SHARING TIME IDEAS

1. Explain to the children that we can show reverence for Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ when we learn about and appreciate the Creation. Invite seven of the older children to participate in a readers' theater about the Creation, using Moses 2 and 3 as your script, with each child representing one day and holding up a picture to represent that day. The script could be printed on the back of the pictures. After the readers theater, have all the children close their eyes. Change the order of the pictures slightly. Then tell them to open their eyes and put the pictures back in the proper order. Send a note home with each child asking the parents to talk with their children about how the Creation helps them feel reverence for God.

2. Tell the children that many Primary songs teach about the beauties of nature and the Creation and help us feel a great gratitude and reverence toward Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Give each child a piece of blank paper and have them fold it in fourths, then label the sections: Plants; Weather; Animals and Insects; and Sun, Moon, and Stars. Invite the children to sing songs from the Nature and Seasons section of the *Children's Songbook*. As you sing each song, have the children make a mark under the sections the song refers to. Count up how many marks are under each section after each

(Sharing Time Ideas continued on page 26.)

