Lesson Plan on Evolution & Image of God

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| 5mins | 1. **Starter discussion:** what do students think the Church’s view on evolution is and why? (Do NOT tell students the answer, as they will work it out in the next activity.). |
| 7mins | 2. **Activity on Church’s view:** read the quotes to work out which view the Catholic Church holds. (It is Special Creation. The Church does NOT believe in Intelligent Design. Creation happens through the entirely natural and random process of evolution, but man’s soul is directly given to him by God. ) |
| 2 mins3mins2mins | 3. **Proving Evolution:** * Ask the students – how could these things prove evolution?
* define what evolution is. Examples on the slide are of the horse and the humanids. Then present the fact that there are 3 types of evidence for evolution – fossils, comparative anatomy and genetics.
* Introduce slide about fossils and what it proves.
* Question for discussion: How might a creationist respond to hearing of such evidence?
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| 8mins | 4. Activity – to trace the **comparative anatomy of** bones in the hand. Discuss how this proves evolution (the bone changed by small increments depending on the needs of the animal, but it is the same bone, so common ancestor) |
| 6mins | 5. Activity: **Evidence from Genetics**. Introduce the idea that genes can show how creatures are related. Then invite students to guess genetic similarities between different organisms. |
| 5mins | **6. Mini- plenary discussion:** does the evidence persuade you that evolution happens? |
| 2mins | **7 . Man as Unique: starter discussion** |
| **8mins** | **8.** Activity: Star those aspects that the Church identifies that you think are important in defining who man is. Discussion: is man different?  |
| 8mins | 9. **Catherine of Siena on Image of God** – what being in the image of God means for us. Read the slide in class. Get students to paraphrase what she is saying. Does this view succeed in explaining the difference between us and animals? |
| **4mins** | **10. Plenary discussion:** what relates us to animals? What distinguishes us? How should we see ourselves? |