
Elves, unicorns, gods,
leprechauns, angels, fairies,
ghosts, Santa Claus,
zombies, the tooth fairy...

All of these are mythological creations that have served a function in the human mind. Gods were invented to explain natural phenomena, like thunder and lightning. The Tooth Fairy was invented to make children less afraid of their baby teeth falling out, which is a normal part of growing up. Angels were said to be little guardian spirits or agents of God, who help protect people from harm. Santa Claus was invented to regulate children's behavior, since he divides children into two groups, either "Naughty" or "Nice," and showers Christmas gifts only upon the "Nice" children. You can choose to believe in any or none of these mythical beings, just as you can choose to believe in a God or not. They are all just creations of the human mind, and none of them are real.

Good News Clubs: You may have heard of elementary school Bible study groups called "Good News Clubs," that teach children they are "born sinners," and deserve to be punished by going to Hell. They teach children that Jesus Christ was killed because of "your sin and your deceitful heart." These programs are based on religious myths and are designed to frighten, shame and terrify children into submission and silence, and teach them not to ask questions and believe whatever they are told. Many people consider such programs psychologically abusive to children, so beware of them.

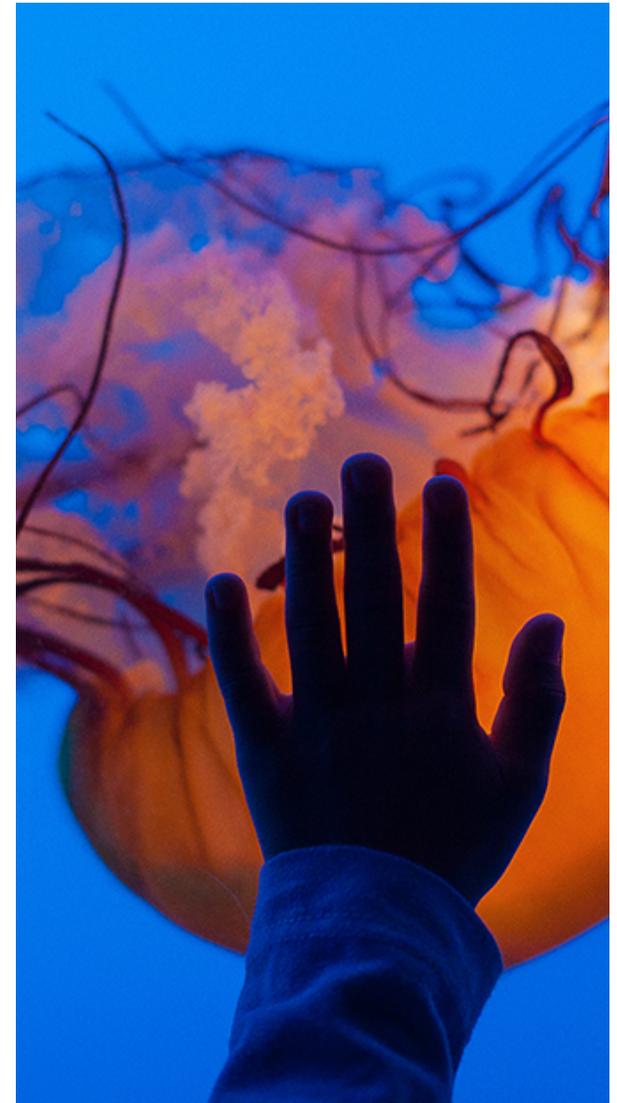
Have more questions
about atheism and not
believing in God? Contact
us! We'd love to hear from
you.



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Western Colorado Atheists and Freethinkers
WesternColoradoAtheists.org
P.O. Box 1434
Grand Junction, CO 81502
(970) 216-9842
WesternColoradoAtheists@Yahoo.com
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It's Okay to Not Believe in God!

It's smart to ask questions and ask for proof before you believe things people tell you, no matter what those things are, or who is telling it to you.



If I told you I had a purple elephant living in my back yard, would you believe it?

You'd probably want to see it for yourself before you would believe such an incredible claim. People make similar claims that God exists somewhere in the sky or in the universe.

It's okay to demand the same level of proof before you believe in God. Just because some people say God exists doesn't make it true. You have a right to be convinced to your own satisfaction that something is true before you believe it, including claims about the existence of a god. If you don't believe God exists, you are an "atheist," which is "someone who lacks belief in the existence of God or gods." Lots of people are atheists, including some very famous and intelligent people. Remember, if something sounds too fantastic or incredible to be true, it probably isn't.



People who are easily convinced to believe **wild claims** are called "gullible." Gullible people make good targets for criminals, and if you are gullible, you may lose money or valuables to schemers and fraudsters. Never be afraid to ask questions or demand a logical explanation for anything.

"If I say I don't believe in God, people will bully me." You don't have to tell anyone you don't believe in God, but there are lots of people just like you, who don't believe in God and are also afraid to say so. A 2015 study by the *Christian Post* found around 1 in 4 people don't believe in God, so the chances are if you say you don't believe, someone else is going to agree with you.



"But without God, how will I know right from wrong?"

Belief in God has nothing to do with knowing right from wrong. To figure out if something is right or wrong, just try it out on yourself first: Before you lie to someone, ask yourself if you would like others to lie to you. If you're thinking about teasing someone or stealing from someone, ask yourself if you would like to be teased that way, or stolen from. All you really need to figure out right from wrong is the "Golden Rule," which is: **Treat others the way you yourself would like to be treated.**

Why do so many people believe in God, anyway?



Belief in God dates back to when cave people walked the Earth. Pre-historic people had no idea how the world worked. They couldn't understand why some people suddenly got sick and died, why the sun rose and set, or why lightning, thunder or avalanches happened. The only explanation they could think of was that someone invisible and more powerful than them was manipulating everything and they were helpless to control any of that stuff. So they started trying to appease this invisible entity, or "God," to keep bad things from happening to them and their families. Today many people still believe in a God, even though now, thanks to hundreds of years of scientific inquiry into fields like microbiology, meteorology, geology, biology and astronomy, we now know so much more about how the world and universe work, and why many natural phenomena occur. As science provided more logical explanations for what used to be mysterious natural phenomena, it greatly reduced people's need to rely on God for an explanation.