The Creation Story in brief, as found in The Holy Quran

The descriptions of creation in the Quran (the book of Islam) are not intended as dry historical accounts but rather to engage the reader in contemplating the lessons to be learned from it. The act of creation, therefore, is frequently described as a way of drawing the reader into thinking about the order of all things and the All-Knowing Creator Who is behind it all. For example: "Verily in the heavens and the earth are signs for those who believe. And in the creation of yourselves, and the fact that animals are scattered (through the earth), are signs for those of assured faith. And in the alternation of night and day, and that fact that Allah sends down sustenance from the sky, and revives therewith the earth after its death, and in the change of the winds, are signs for those who are wise" (45:3-5).

Big Bang?
The Quran says: "The heavens and the earth were joined together as one unit, before We (God - Allah in Arabic) clove them asunder" (21:30). Following this “joined beginning”, Allah; "turned to the sky, and it had been (as) smoke. He said to it and to the earth: 'Come together, willingly or unwillingly.' They said: 'We come (together) in willing obedience" (41:11). Thus the elements and what was to become the everything in the heaven had started in a form that is “smoke”, which was to form into shape, following the natural laws Allah established in the universe.

Six Days or six periods of times?
The Quran states that: "Allah created the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them, in six days" (7:54). While on the surface this might seem similar to the account related in the Bible, there are some important distinctions. The verses that mention “six days” use the Arabic word “day”. While this word can mean “a day” it also appears several several times in the Quran, each denoting a different measurement of time. In one case: “the measure of a day is equated with fifty thousand years (70:4). Whereas another verse states that: “a day in the sight of your Lord is like a thousand years of your reckoning” (22:47). The word “day” is thus understood, within the Quran, to be a long period of time -- an era, age or eon. Therefore, Muslims interpret the description of a “six days” creation as six distinct periods or eons. The length of these periods is not precisely defined, nor are the specific developments that took place during each period. However, there is a general description given.

After the six days, the Quran describes that Allah “settled Himself upon the Throne” (57:4). A distinct point is made to counter the Biblical idea of a day of rest. As Allah states in another verse: “We created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them in six days, nor did any sense of weariness touch Us” (50:38).

The Creation continues:
Another very noticeable point in the story of creation according to the Holy Quran, is that Allah is never “done” with His work, because the process of creation is ongoing, as He uses the present tens in: “To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth; He creates what he wills”. (42:49). Everything new in heaven or Earth, is a part of the ongoing process of “Allah's creation”.

Expansion of Universe:
The heavens, We have built them with power. And verily, We are expanding”(51:47). Today, we know that all galaxies are moving away from each other to “expand”. Not only that, but we also know now that new parts of heaven are being formed, a proof of the continuation of Allah's creation.

Iron Sent Down:
“We sent down iron with its great inherent strength and its many benefits for humankind.” (57:25).
We know today that iron is not natural to earth, as it came to this planet from outer space. Scientists have found that billions of years ago, earth was struck by meteorites carrying iron from distant stars which had exploded. Allah uses the words “sent down”, to indicate the fact that iron was sent down to earth from heavens or the outer space.

**Life Came From Water:**
The Quran describes that Allah “made from water every living thing” (21:30). Another verse states “Allah has created every animal from water. Of them are some that creep on their bellies, some that walk on two legs, and some that walk on four. Allah creates what He wills, for truly Allah has power over all things” (24:45). Here, water is pointed out as the origin of life. Today we know, thanks to modern technology, that all living things are made of cells and that cells are mostly made of water.

**Creation of Adam and Eve:**
While Islam recognizes the general idea of the development of creation in stages, over a period of time, human beings are considered as a special act of creation. Islam teaches that human beings are a unique life form that was created by Allah in a special way, with unique gifts and abilities unlike any other: a soul and conscience, knowledge, and free will. In short, Muslims do not believe that human beings randomly evolved from apes. The life of human beings began with the creation of two people, a male and a female named Adam and Eve (Hawwa in Arabic).The Quran describes how Allah created Adam: “We created man from sounding clay, from mud molded into shape” (15:26). And “He began the creation of man from clay, and made his progeny from a disdained of fluid” (32:7-8). Thus, human beings have a fundamental attachment to the earth. While the creation of Eve is not described in detail, the Quran does make it clear that a “mate” was created with Adam, from the same nature and “soul”; *It is He Who created you from a single person, and made his mate of like nature, in order that he might dwell with her (in love)” (7:189).
- There is no reference in the Quran as to how long ago Adam first walked on Earth nor to how long did he live. The available Biblical reference at the time the Quran was reveled, was not acknowledged.

**Creation of mankind after Adam and Eve**
From these two individuals, Adam and Eve (Hawwa), generations of human beings have inhabited the earth. “Oh humankind! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, so that you may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honored among you in the sight of Allah is the who is the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)” (49:13). Then: “And certainly We created man from an extract of clay [Adam]. Then We placed him as a sperm-drop in a firm lodging. Then We made the sperm-drop into a clinging clot, and We made the clot into a lump [of flesh], and We made the lump, bones, and We covered the bones with flesh; then We developed him into another creation”(23: 12-14).

Islam encourages reflection and scientific research because understanding the nature of creation should enable you to further appreciate the Creator, His power and wisdom:
“Indeed, in the creation of the heavens and earth, and the alternation of the night and the day, and the [great] ships which sail through the sea with that which benefits people, and what Allah has sent down from the heavens of rain, giving life thereby to the earth after its lifelessness and dispersing therein every [kind of] moving creature, and [His] directing of the winds and the clouds controlled between the heaven and the earth are signs for a people who use reason”. (2:164)

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**Enrich your knowledge, read the Quran.**