



Unit of work:

What is Humanism?

Year group:

4

Prior learning

This is the first and only time Humanism is taught in primary school. This is taught as a free choice unit.

RE skills to develop

- I can discuss Humanist beliefs
- I can explain how worshippers believe that we should use reason, empathy, compassion, and respect when deciding how to behave
- I can understand the nature of Humanism: it is not a religion, but a philosophy, a lifestance, or an approach to life

Knowledge/ Skills

What is Humanism?

- The belief that human beings are special and human life is valuable
- The absence of belief in a god or gods, and the absence of belief that we can ever know if there is a god
- The belief that human beings can find their own way to be happy
- The belief that human beings should be good to each other

Humanism resources:

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/uhtHEME/what-is-humanism/?age=5>

understandinghumanism.org.uk/uhtHEME/knowledge-and-belief/?age=5

understandinghumanism.org.uk/uhtHEME/meaning-and-happiness/?age=5

understandinghumanism.org.uk/uhtHEME/celebrations-and-ceremonies/?age=5

understandinghumanism.org.uk/uhtHEME/ethics/?age=7

Vocabulary and definitions

Word	Definition
Humanist	An advocate or follower of the principles of humanism.
Humanism	A belief that human needs and values are more important than religious beliefs, or the needs and desires of humans. An example of humanism is the belief that the person creates their own set of ethics.
Curiosity	A strong desire to know or learn something.
Celebrant	A person who performs a rite, especially a priest at the Eucharist.
Empathy	The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.
Atheism	The lack of belief in the existence of God or gods.
Agnosticism	The view that the existence of God, of the divine or the supernatural is unknown or unknowable
Evolution	The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.
Natural selection	The process whereby organisms better adapted to their environment tend to survive and produce more offspring
Compassion	Sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others

Important symbols

The Happy Human is the international symbol of Humanism. There are different versions available.

<https://humanism.org.uk/humanism/the-happy-human-symbol/>

