

THE HAPPY HUMAN

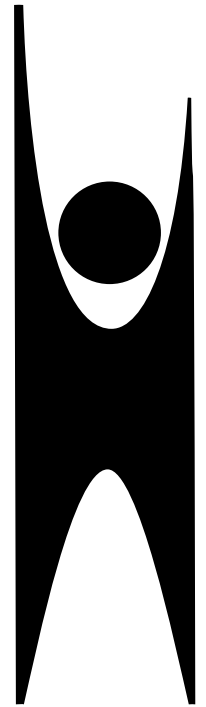
Look at the symbol on the right.

What do you think it looks like? What does it make you think about?

It is called the **Happy Human**. It is a picture of a human being. It also looks a bit like an 'H' for 'Human' and 'Humanism'. In 1965, Humanists UK organised a competition to find a symbol that represents **humanism**. The Happy Human, created by Dennis Barrington, was the winning design.

Think about when you might stand like that with both your arms raised above your head – perhaps when celebrating winning a race, or when you find the answer to a difficult problem, or when you are feeling energetic and excited about taking on a new challenge.

For humanists the Happy Human is about **celebrating being human** – celebrating what human beings can do and celebrating our potential for happiness. Humanists believe we have one life and so we should make the most of our lives by trying to be happy and supporting other people to do the same.



'The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make others so.'

ROBERT INGERSOLL,
(1833-1899)

The Happy Human is used by **humanist organisations** all around the world.



QUESTIONS

- Do you think you could design a better symbol?
- Think about what you have learned about humanism. Try to design a new symbol for humanism and explain why you think humanists should adopt your design.