

## Human beings: overview (age 5+)



**Big question:** What am I?

**Key vocab:** natural, the Big Bang, evolution, celebrate, responsibility, potential, wonder

<b>Knowledge outcomes:</b> Students should know about the following common features of a <b>humanist understanding of human beings</b> .		
<b>Belief in the scientific story of where we came from</b>	<b>Recognising that human beings have good and bad features</b>	<b>Believing that human beings can help to make the world a better place</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The belief the universe is a natural place and that it started with the Big Bang</li> <li>• Looking for natural explanations for our origins</li> <li>• The scientific story of our origins as a source of wonder</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The belief human beings evolved like all other living things (we are animals, we were not created)</li> <li>• Recognising both our good and bad feelings, instincts, and behaviours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The responsibility to make the most of our potential and encourage other people to do the same</li> <li>• Celebrating our abilities and many of our achievements</li> </ul>

### Introduction

- Begin with the '[A humanist approach to life: a summary](#)' slide to introduce/recap the core features of a humanist approach to life.
- Ask the students what word they can see inside the word 'humanism' (answer: 'human'). Explain that you are going to explore a humanist understanding of human beings: where we come from, what we are, and where we might be going.

### Where do we come from?

- Present the information on the [Human beings: where do we come from? information sheet](#) and discuss the scientific story of our origins.
- The following books can support an introduction to the scientific story:
  - [Older Than the Stars](#) by Karen C. Fox, or [Once Upon a Star](#) by James Carter (on the Big Bang)
  - [Grandmother Fish](#) by Jonathan Tweet (on evolution)

### The two wolves

- Share and discuss the story of [The two wolves](#) to illustrate the different sides to human nature.

### Human beings: good and bad

- Carry out the [Human beings: good and bad activity](#) to explore the positive and negative features of human beings, and the humanist belief in our potential. Students can also create an image of a human being that illustrates both the good and bad sides of our nature, then identify or highlight the features a humanist might think we should celebrate and promote.

### Summary and assessment

- Review the knowledge outcomes above.
- Ask the students what questions they would like to ask a humanist.