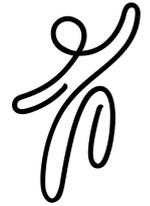


Human beings: overview (age 7+)



Big question: What am I?

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

Knowledge outcomes: Students should know about the following common features of a humanist understanding of human beings .		
Looking to science for natural explanations of our origins	Recognising that human beings evolved positive and negative qualities	Believing that human beings have the potential to make the world a better place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific explanations for our origins (the Big Bang theory, evolution by natural selection) The scientific story of our origins as a source of wonder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humans as evolved animals The belief we are made from matter (atoms) and have no disembodied spirit or soul The belief this is the one life we have Recognising our naturally evolved positive and negative instincts and capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The belief our capacities give rise to responsibilities Recognising our flaws and working to limit them where we can Trying to make the most of our potential and encouraging other people to do the same Celebrating our abilities and many of our achievements

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: human origins, human nature, and human potential (where we come from, what we are, and where we might be going).

Where do we come from?

- Share and discuss the [Human beings: where do we come from? information sheet](#) to explore 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)
 - [Our Family Tree](#) by Lisa Westberg Peters, or [Grandmother Fish](#) by Jonathan Tweet (on evolution)

What are we?

- Share and discuss the story of [The two wolves](#) to illustrate the different sides to human nature.
- Carry out activities 1 and 2 on the [Human beings: good and bad activity](#) to explore the positive and negative features of human beings, and the humanist understanding of human nature and belief in our potential.

Where are we going?

- Share and discuss the [Human potential and responsibility information sheet](#) to explore the humanist perspective on how we can make the best use of our capacities.
- You could also share the [What is a humanist understanding of human beings? information sheet](#).
- Carry out activity 3 on the [Human beings: good and bad activity](#), in which students will 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

- Share and discuss the Multiple choice questions.
- Carry out the Fill in the blanks activity.
- Review the knowledge outcomes above.
- Ask the students what questions they would like to ask a humanist.