

What is humanism? overview (age 5+)

The suggestions below support an introduction to humanism. Other resources found under the five areas of knowledge on understandinghumanism.org.uk (human beings, understanding the world, the one life, humanist ethics, and society) will enable a fuller and richer exploration of the content introduced here.

Key vocab: non-religious, natural, questions, evidence, kindness, freedom, happiness

Introduction

- Explain that you are going to introduce students to a non-religious worldview called humanism.
- Begin with the 'The humanist approach to life: a summary' slide to introduce the core features of the humanist approach to life.

What is humanism?

- Share the information on the What is humanism? information sheet/slides. Explain that humanism is not a religion but is a non-religious worldview and discuss with the students some of the ways it is different from and some of the ways it is similar to religions. Share and discuss the three beliefs that humanists share, checking vocabulary and understanding.
- Read Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers and discuss how the messages in the book might link to a humanist approach to life. Use the Here We Are information sheet to help. If you don't have the book, you could watch this film: www.youtube.com/watch?v=cPPQdDwTUvE

Summary and assessment

- Review what the students have learned about humanism.
- Share the Happy Human symbol and ask students to decorate it with words and pictures that illustrate what it means to be a humanist.
- Ask the students what questions they would like to ask a humanist.