

Thank you for booking a humanist [school speaker](#). Some classes will already have studied humanism and so will be well prepared. If yours hasn't, a little preparation beforehand and a consolidation activity afterwards can help make sure students get the most out of a visit. We know teachers are often stretched for time, so there are no expectations. However, all these suggestions are free and ready to use.



1 Before the visit

A short activity can introduce some core vocabulary and help students prepare questions.

Start with the basics. There are introductory resources in the [What is humanism?](#) area, including presentations and information sheets.

Watch a short film. Try our animations [One life, live it well](#) and [Human nature, human potential](#), both narrated by Alice Roberts, or the BBC Bitesize film [Five facts about non-religious beliefs](#).

Hear from humanists. The *What do humanists value?* handouts ([lower](#) and [higher](#)) share humanists' answers in their own words.

Get students asking. The [How does being non-religious affect my life?](#) activity can help students to think about their questions.

Questions for a humanist

Ask the students what questions they would like to ask a humanist and write them down so they're ready on the day. For example:

How do humanists decide what's right and wrong?

What makes life meaningful for a humanist?

How do humanists decide what to believe?

Key vocabulary Introduce some of these words in advance so students are familiar with them:

non-religious natural atheist evidence science reason one life happiness empathy
freedom responsibility human rights the Happy Human

2 After the visit

Help students consolidate what they've learned with these activities.

PRIMARY

Decorate a Happy Human. Use the [Happy Human symbol](#) template and ask students to fill it with words and pictures they connect with humanism.

Read a picture book. With younger students, explore [Here we are](#) (or [watch it read aloud](#)) and ask them to look out for and identify humanist beliefs.

PRIMARY OR SECONDARY

Explore objects. In [Humanism through objects](#), students consider how each object might connect with humanist beliefs, values, and goals.

Design a building. In [What do humanists value? \(Designing a humanist building\)](#), students can design a building that represents humanist values.

3 Check what they've learned

In the [What is humanism?](#) area you'll find multiple choice questions and 'Fill in the blanks' activities for different age groups that can help you to see how much students have understood.

