

Year: 6, Subject: RE, Unit: What does it mean to be human? Is being happy the greatest purpose in life?

Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will study what it means to be human. They will study some of the great philosophers and learn about their views on being human. The children will learn about Humanism and humanist views on happiness.

What should I already know?

Philosophy

- Philosophy is thinking about the world and making sense out of it.
- Aristotle, Plato and Socrates were great philosophers from Ancient Greek times. Their thinking has taught us about what is right and wrong, justice and behaving in an ethical way.
- Suffering is caused by pain and loss. This can be as a result of natural or medical disaster. Suffering can also happen as a result of the behaviour of people towards others.
- Utilitarianism is thinking about right and wrong actions. It says that the best action is the one that makes the most happiness or usefulness.

Humanism

- Humanism is a world view where the followers do not believe in god - they look to science as a way to explain the world.
- Humanists believe in a set of ethics about the way people should live.

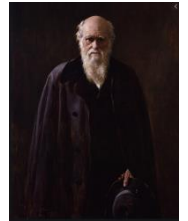
Vocabulary:

Humanism

A set of ethics/ideas about how people should live and act.

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)

An English naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his contributions to the science of evolution.



Robert Ingersoll (1833-1899)

An American lawyer, writer, and orator, who campaigned in defence of agnosticism.

Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)

A British philosopher.

Philosophy

The study of the basic ideas about knowledge, right and wrong, reasoning, and the value of things.

Perspective

A person's ability to consider a situation from a different point of view.

Emotional intelligence

The ability to understand, use, and manage our emotions.

Intellectual capacity

The ability to think, learn, plan, and do things.

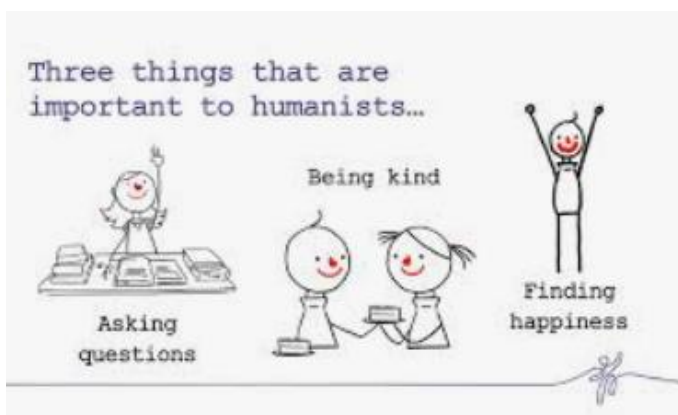
What will I know by the end of the unit?

Philosophy

- What does it mean to be human is a difficult question to answer.
- Scientists believe that humans are one species of primate that emerged from the dry savannahs of East Africa just over 100,000 years ago. Humanity has been evolving and developing since this time.
- Humans and the way they live have evolved over time.
- Humans have characteristics that set them apart from other animals - creativity, curiosity, emotional intelligence, intellectual capacity, compassion, empathy, logic, consciousness

Humanism

- Humanists believe human beings are special and human life is valuable
- Humanists don't believe in a god, or believe we can never know if there is a god
- Humanists don't believe there is any evidence for an afterlife: we should therefore make the most of this life
- Humanists believe human beings should try to live full and happy lives and help others to do the same
- Humanists place great importance on making themselves and others happy.



Compassion

To care about others, treat them with kindness, and feel a strong desire to help people in need.

Empathy

Someone is able to share or understand the emotions and feelings of another person.

Logic

The science of reasoning.

Consciousness

Being awake, alert and responsive to the environment.