



RE - Year 6 Autumn term 1

Humanism

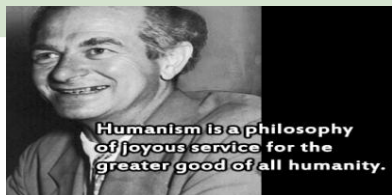
Key Concepts:



The term 'humanism' has more than one meaning.

Humanism puts human beings and human interests at the centre of things. Humanists believe that fulfilment is arrived at through human effort and inventiveness rather than religion. Humanists believe that people should think freely for themselves and should act in the light of reason and experience, and in co-operation with others, for the promotion of human happiness.

Humanism is a broad philosophy of life and, unlike religious believers, humanists do not believe that there is a 'Godly Being'. This means that people who call themselves humanists can, and often do, hold widely differing views. Historically humanism has generally been regarded as incompatible with religion, so that today some humanists now find it necessary to refer to themselves as 'secular humanists' or 'scientific humanists'.



What is Humanism?



The main characteristics of humanism as it is generally understood today may be found in the teachings of these and other ancient philosophers, and their ideas influenced the thinking of others who have helped shape the humanist tradition: Enlightenment thinkers like Diderot and Voltaire, Utilitarians like Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill, evolutionary scientists like Charles Darwin and Thomas Huxley, other scientists like the Curies and Albert Einstein, and 20th century philosophers like Bertrand Russell. - Famous present-day humanists include the ubiquitous Stephen Fry, the television scientist Brian Cox and authors Terry Pratchett and Philip Pullman.

Key Learning:

To know that Humanists do not consider Humanism as a religion but as a non-religious ethical world view.

To know that Humanists consider Science as the best method to understand the universe; evidence for the universe being billions of years old; evidence that all life on earth, including humans, evolved from a common ancestor.

Happiness as a worthwhile goal; living a flourishing and fulfilling life; The absence of the need for religion or the belief in a god or gods to be happy.

To know that Atheism is the absence of belief in a god or gods

To know that Agnosticism is the belief that we can't know whether a god or gods exist or not.

Children will understand that Humanists value general moral principles while considering the particular situation,

To develop an understanding of the Humanists belief of how the world was created – The Big Bang.

To know what Humanists consider to be the Golden Rule. "Treat other people as you would like them to treat you" ("Do as you would be done by")

Key Vocabulary



Evidence: The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid.

Evolution: The process by which different kinds of living organism are believed to have developed from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

Atheist: A person who disbelieves or lacks belief in the existence of God or gods.

Agnostic: A person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God.

The Big Bang: The Big Bang Theory is a scientific model that describes how the universe began

Humanism: A non-religious ethical view of the world.

