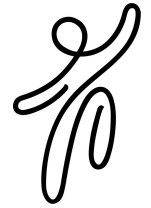


Human beings: overview (age 5+)



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 .		
Belief in the scientific story of where we came from	Recognising that human beings have good and bad features	Believing that human beings can help to make the world a better place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The belief the universe is a natural place and that it started with the Big Bang Looking for natural explanations for our origins The scientific story of our origins as a source of wonder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The belief human beings evolved like all other living things (we are animals, we were not created) Recognising both our good and bad feelings, instincts, and behaviours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The responsibility to make the most of our potential and encourage 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: where we come from, what we are, and where we might be going.

Where do we come from?

- Present the information on the [Human beings: where do we come from? information sheet](#) and discuss 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)
 - [Grandmother Fish](#) by Jonathan Tweet (on evolution)

The two wolves

- Share and discuss the story of [The two wolves](#) to illustrate the different sides to human nature.

Human beings: good and bad

- Carry out the [Human beings: good and bad activity](#) to explore the positive and negative features of human beings, and the humanist belief in our potential. Students can also 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

- Review the knowledge outcomes above.
- Ask the students what questions they would like to ask a humanist.