

I wonder what Humanists
value?



What can we remember about key Humanist beliefs?

They do not believe in a god or afterlife.

You should show empathy towards others when making decisions.

Science can provide answers.

You should not force your beliefs on others,

Celebrate human achievements.



Read this quote by Richard Norman, a Humanist philosopher.

The satisfaction of creative achievement... the excitement of discovery...relationships with others...the life of the emotions... the enjoyment of beauty in art and nature... These, we know, are the things which enrich our experience.

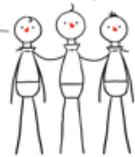
What does this tell us about what he values as
a Humanist?

I do not believe in an afterlife, so this life is everything to me. We should find what makes us happy and make the most of our lives. We should also try to help others to do the same.



For me, freedom is one of the most important things in life: freedom to live my life however I wish, as long as I do not cause harm to others. All human beings have the freedom to find their own way to make their lives feel meaningful.

The most important thing in life is forming good friendships and relationships with others. The human community is also important, and we should remember that all human beings around the world are part of one extended family.



I value the natural world around me. Without it we would not survive, and this world is the only one we have. It is a source of beauty and wonder, and we should take care of it.



I value our curiosity and our capacity to ask questions. By looking for evidence, and thinking carefully about the answers, we have been able to discover so much about our world and ourselves and have been able to improve the quality of our lives.



We are all part of **humanity** and part of the human story. We are all linked across time to our ancestors and our descendants. Human beings have made incredible **progress** and we should aim to help our children and their children continue that progress. That is the human spirit.



Human beings should celebrate the many intellectual and creative achievements of humankind, such as science, medicine, technology, art, music, and literature. We should try to make the most of our talents and abilities and be optimistic about what we might achieve in the future.



Humanists believe in a world that promotes democracy and human rights. We believe in the importance of equality and social justice. We should work to improve the quality of life for all human beings. Empathy can help me to see how I would like to be treated if I were in somebody else's situation. We should take care of each other.



What key values can we identify in these examples?

What does a Humanist value?

It is up to the individual.

Making the most of our lives.

Freedom.

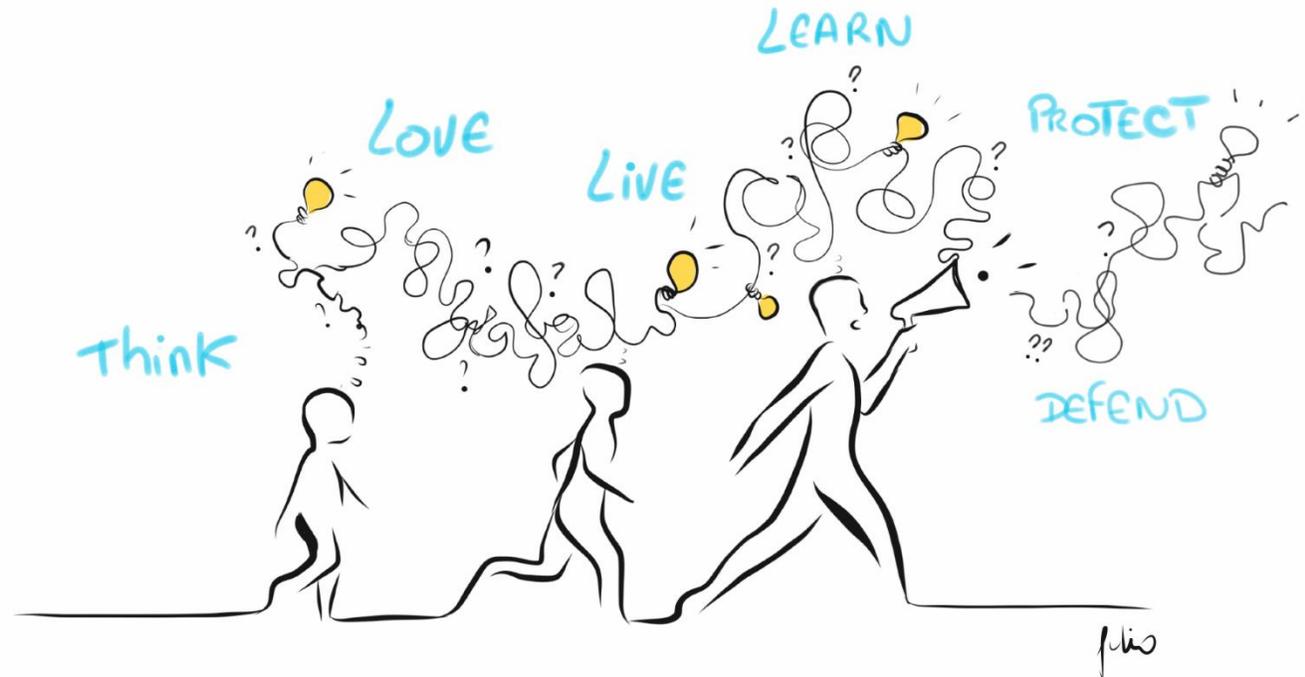
Relationships.

Humanity and our achievements.

Peace and Human Rights.

The Natural World.

Curiosity.



Are these values very different
from Religious values?

Over to you!

Challenge - Design a humanist building



Humanists have no special places of worship. Many take great pleasure in the wonders of the natural world and believe thinking about nature can also help them to recognise their place in the world.

Many also have great admiration for the many spectacular achievements of human engineering and architecture that can be found all around the world. They stand as symbols of what human beings are capable of.

Many humanists also value libraries, schools, colleges, hospitals, museums, sports facilities, council buildings, and parliamentary buildings as places of public value.

These buildings bring people together to learn, to play, to support each other, or to work for the common good. All of these are activities and goals that many humanists believe we should pursue.



Design a building that represents things that humanists value. Think about all the things you read and learned about Humanist values to help you design this building.

- What might that building be like?
- What would the building be for?

Some questions to think about as you plan your building:

- 1) Should a humanist building hug the Earth or reach for the stars?
- 2) Should a humanist building focus more on humanity or the natural world?
- 3) Should a humanist building reflect individual freedom or our connections with other humans?
- 4) Should a humanist building fit with the surroundings or stand in contrast to them? Does it depend on what the surroundings are (e.g. urban or natural)?

Things to consider...

- a) Location: Where would it be?
- b) Exterior: What would the outside look like? What is the relationship between the inside and the outside? Should the exterior say something about the purpose of the building? How should the building be accessed?
- c) Interior: How would the rooms be organised inside and how might they be decorated?
- d) Other features: What else would there be inside and outside the building? Would there be any words, images, or symbols?
- e) Activities: What would the building be used for?



Look at these examples of buildings that reflect Humanist values.
What Humanist values can you spot in them?



Canada Water Library

Rooted in the ground and nature. Lots of natural light.
Accessible to everyone.
Encouraging aspiration and learning.



Telford Crematorium

The glass wall in the main assembly room allows mourners to gaze out at the surrounding natural landscape, to take comfort from it, and to feel at one with it.



Designs for a humanist retreat

Hannah Flory, Chris Gaunt, and John Cox,
University of Liverpool



Challenge:



Tell me about your building design.

How does it reflect Humanist values?

