

Part 2 For pupils aged 7-11

Activity 6

We Are All Born Free

Aim: To introduce children to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Through creative writing and story-telling, children familiarise themselves with some fundamental human rights and their meanings.

Time: 1-2 hours. **Age:** 7+. **What you need:** *We Are All Born Free* pictures (on the CD, present as a PowerPoint). Also print two or three copies of each of the 12 pictures, enough for each pupil to have a picture.

What to do

Coming from history

Explain that after World War II, when millions of people lost their lives and millions more were driven from their homes, the leaders of the world got together. They set up a new organisation – the United Nations – to help stop wars between countries and build a better world. One of its first jobs was to draw up a list of human rights that belong to everyone in the world. They called it the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The world's governments promised to tell everyone about these rights and to protect them.

They include our right to live, to get married, to go to school and to play; our right to food and shelter and to travel, our right to think and say what we believe in; our right to be treated fairly; and our right to peace and order.

Explain that all 30 rights from the UDHR are illustrated in a book called *We Are All Born Free*. Show the *We Are All Born Free* picture PowerPoint display and explain that this is an example of some of those rights and illustrations.

Distribute the illustrations around the class and ensure that two or three children are working (separately) on each picture. Ask the children to look at their illustration and to read the words very carefully.

Next invite everyone to imagine themselves inside their picture, taking part in what is going on. Ask them to write a short story about their adventure inside the picture. The story has to be about their human right, and somewhere in the story someone has to say the words in their UDHR article.

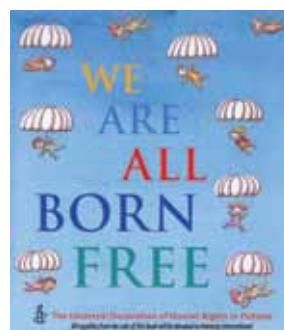
After the stories have been written, the children who have the same article and picture should sit together and share their stories.

- Were their stories similar at all?
 - What worked well/what would they do differently?
- Share some of the stories as a whole class and/or put them on display.

Source: *Our World Our Rights*, Activity 4.

Eleanor Roosevelt regarded the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as her greatest accomplishment and on the 10th anniversary of the Declaration she said:

'Where, after all, do human rights begin? In small places, close to home; in the everyday world of human beings – the neighborhoods they live in, the schools or colleges they attend, the factories, farms or offices where they work, where every man, woman and child seeks to have equal justice and opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.'



We Are All Born Free, published by Amnesty International and Frances Lincoln 2008.

