



SESSION PLAN

ACTIVITY 2: NEW PLANET

An activity designed for students aged 11-14.

INTRODUCTION

This activity asks students to create their own set of human rights for a new planet before comparing these to the Human Rights Act.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Consider what human rights should be protected by law and who should be responsible for their protection
- Compare possible approaches taken to protect human rights, highlighting that there is no single approach.

RESOURCES

- A large sheet of paper per group
- Pen/pencils etc.
- Human Rights Act (PPT or handouts)

STARTER

Explain to the class that a new planet has been discovered. The new planet is identical to Earth in terms of environment and wildlife, but no humans have ever been to or lived on this new planet. There are no laws, no rules and no history.

The students are the first settlers on this planet, and they have been appointed to decide on the human rights which are to be protected by law on this new planet. Split the students into groups and ask each group to come up with a name for their new planet.

MAIN

Ask the students, in their groups, to decide ten rights for every human on this new planet that should be protected by law. The students should write/draw a list of these rights.

Ask each group to introduce their planet to the other groups, and explain the ten rights they have chosen to protect and why;

As each group presents, compile a master list (combining those which are similar) to cover all the human rights proposed by the class.

Look at the Human Rights Act 1998. How does the class master list compare to the rights listed in the Act? Would the class like to add any new rights to the master list after looking at the Human Rights Act?

Has everything in the Human Rights Act been mentioned in the class master list? If not, discuss the importance of those not included.

Do the students believe any rights from their master list should be included in the Human Rights Act and so protected under UK law?

DISCUSSION

Why it is important for this new planet to have a list of protected rights. Who should be responsible for enforcing the protection of human rights on this new planet? Use this discussion as a means of explaining and discussing the way in which human rights are protected in the UK. Emphasise to the students that there is no right or single approach to the protection of human rights.