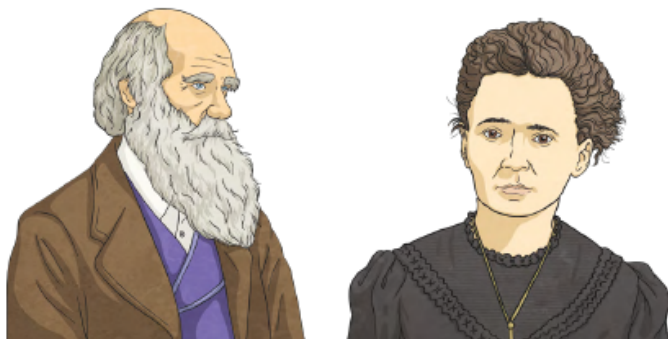


Humanism

Key Vocabulary

Humanist	Someone who believes in the Humanism worldview .
Secular	Not connected with religious or spiritual matters.
Atheist	Someone with no belief in God or gods.
Worldview	Your ideas about life or the world.
Ethical	Someone who is honest and follows good moral practice.
Rationality	Thinking about things clearly, in a logical way, with decisions based on facts.



Non-Religious World View

Humanists actively seek to live good lives without following a religion. Their moral values are based on human nature and life experiences. **Humanists** base their moral principles on reason, shared human values and respect for others. They believe people should work together to improve the quality of life for all. Thinkers such as Charles Darwin, Marie Curie and George Eliot have all influenced Humanism.

Humanists don't believe in a religion or a god. In the past, some **Humanists** did believe in religion, but during the 19th and 20th centuries, **Humanists** became more **secular**.

Main Beliefs of Humanism

Non-Existence of Gods

Most **Humanists** are **atheists**. They rely on science and have found no evidence that a god exists or ever existed.

Meaning of Life

Humanists give their lives meaning by living good lives. They make good choices and take an interest in the world around them.

Science

Scientific investigations gather evidence to find the truth. **Humanists** also use evidence to see what is true.

No Purpose to the Universe

They believe that the universe was created by chance, so there is no purpose to the universe.

Reason

Humanists believe decisions should not be made on emotions, but on reason, **rationality** and logic.

Ethical Decisions

To live good lives, decisions must be weighed up for their positive and negative consequences for all. **Humanists** believe there are no perfect decisions.

Key Vocabulary

BHA

The British **Humanist** Association (now operating as **Humanists** UK). Many **Humanists** in the UK are members of this association.

Humanism Symbols and Meanings

The **Humanist** symbol is called the Happy Human. It was designed by Dennis Barrington who won a competition organised by the **BHA** in 1965. The symbol was chosen as the design was simple. The symbol shows a human, but it could have be either a male or female. Within a few years, this symbol became the international symbol of Humanism. The symbol is still used, in a range of adapted forms, in the present day.



Humanists believe in a golden rule in life. This is to treat others how you would like to be treated.



The British Humanist Association Values

Treating people with fairness and respect.

Respecting and promoting freedom, human rights and the law. Engaging in conversation and discussion with attention to detail.

Cooperating with others to make good things happen, including with those of different beliefs.

Celebrating human achievement, progress and potential.

Engaging in conversation and discussion with attention to detail and evidence.

