

the HUMAN project

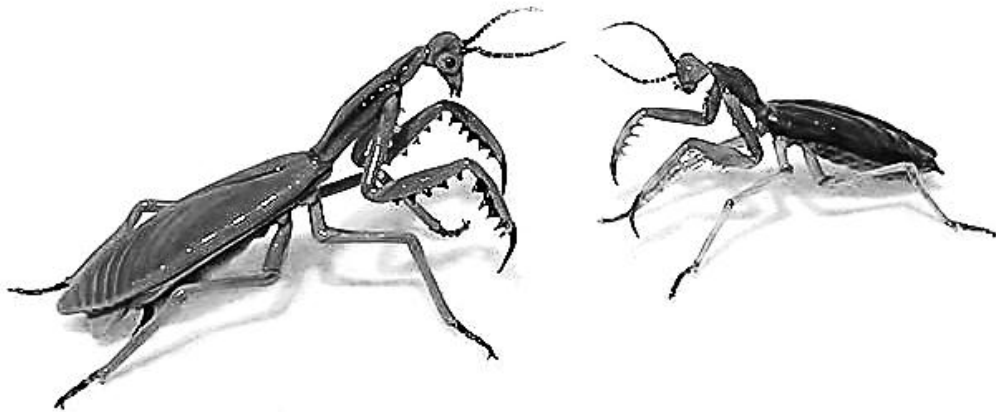
Anna Stillwell and Erika Ilves

To humans who dare dream beyond their lifespan.

Curriculum content and lesson plans designed by Rohan Roberts

1

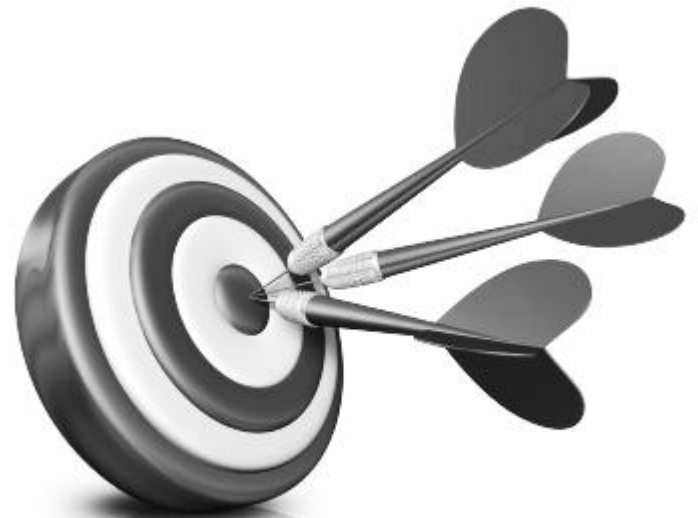
SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST



Energiser

- To examine who we are as a species
- To analyse what it means to have a shared humanity

Objectives



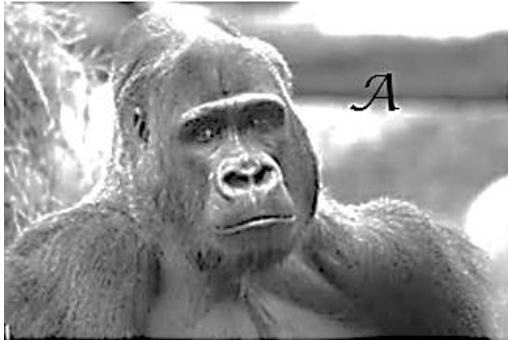
WHO ARE WE?

It's quite subtle. Nearly imperceptible. Not where we might think of looking first: how we see ourselves—our identity—shapes our future as a species. So let's tell a story about ourselves—let's build a cultural identity that moves us to dream bigger, learn faster.... go places, evolve into something even better.

Introductory Video



Which of the images below is the odd one out? Say why.



Starter Activity:
Odd one out



5 min. prep time | 5 min. presentation time

- **Group 1: discuss and present what it means to be human.**
- **Group 2: discuss and present the good humans have done.**
- **Group 3: discuss and present the meaning of “cultural learning.”**

Activity 1: **Mini** **Presentation**





10 min. prep time | 5 min. display time

**Use resource sheet 1a:
Who Are We?**

**Create a poster that
captures the essence of
the extract.**

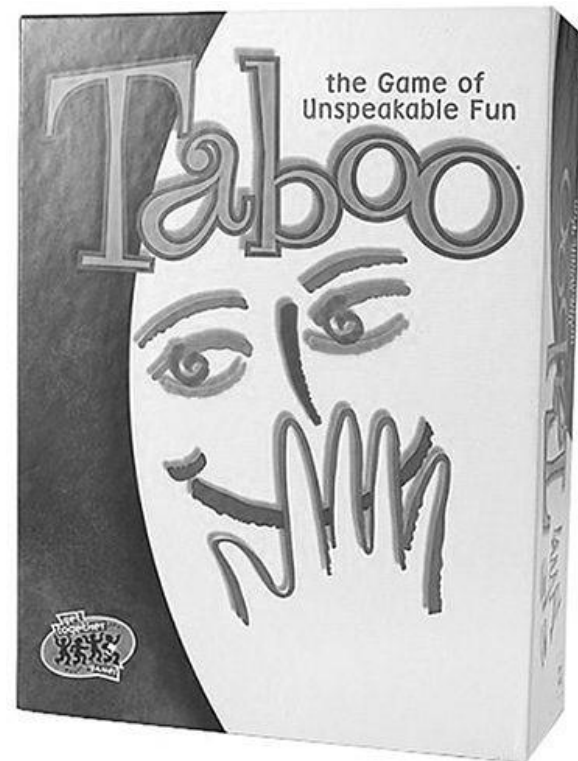
**Activity 1:
Designing a
poster**



In pairs, discuss what you've learnt in the last hour but you are not allowed to use the following taboo words:

Humans, Species, Project

Plenary:
Taboo



**Create a 2-min.
movie-trailer
introducing humans
to an alien species.**

**(Use either Animoto,
MovieMaker,
GoAnimate!, or
iMovies)**



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

*What should the purpose of
our species be.*



Reading task in
prep for next
week

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Earthquake



Eviction



Energiser

- To evaluate the purpose of humans
- To distinguish between being and becoming

Objectives



Arrange in order of
increasing importance



Starter Activity:
Odd one out

**What should the purpose of
our species be?**

The HUMAN Project
should be the ultimate
infinite game. Let's play it
to keep playing... beyond
our individual deaths,
beyond the end of our sun,
maybe even beyond the
end of our universe.

Introductory
Video





2 min. prep time | 5 min. discussion time

**In groups make a list
of things that
humans have
accomplished over
the last 10,000 years.**

**The group with the
biggest list wins.
(Chocolates for
reward)**

**Activity 1:
List-o-mania**





3 min. thinking time | 5 min. sharing time

**Think about/Reflect on
where our species will
be 10; 100; 10,000 years
from now.**

**Pair up with a partner
and discuss/clarify your
views.**

**Share with the rest of
the group.**

Activity 2:
Think-pair-share





3 min. thinking time | 5 min. sharing time

**“To be or not to be,
that is the question.”**

What does it mean?

Activity 3: Literary Analysis





3 min. thinking time | 5 min. sharing time

Read resource sheet 2b

**What is the difference
between *being* and
becoming?**

**Activity 3:
Literary Analysis**



Stewart Brand says, *'We are as gods and might as well get good at it.'*

What could this statement mean and how would you respond?

What should our purpose as HUMANS be?



Plenary:
Provocation

- **Watch Jason Silva's video mash-up "Beginning of Infinity"**
- **Read a review of David Deutsch's *Beginning of Infinity* by Rohan Roberts on 'Phoebus Online.'**
- **Research Deutsch's concept of 'Jump to Universality'**



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

*What can one human life
mean?*



Reading task in
prep for next
week

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Human Knot Game



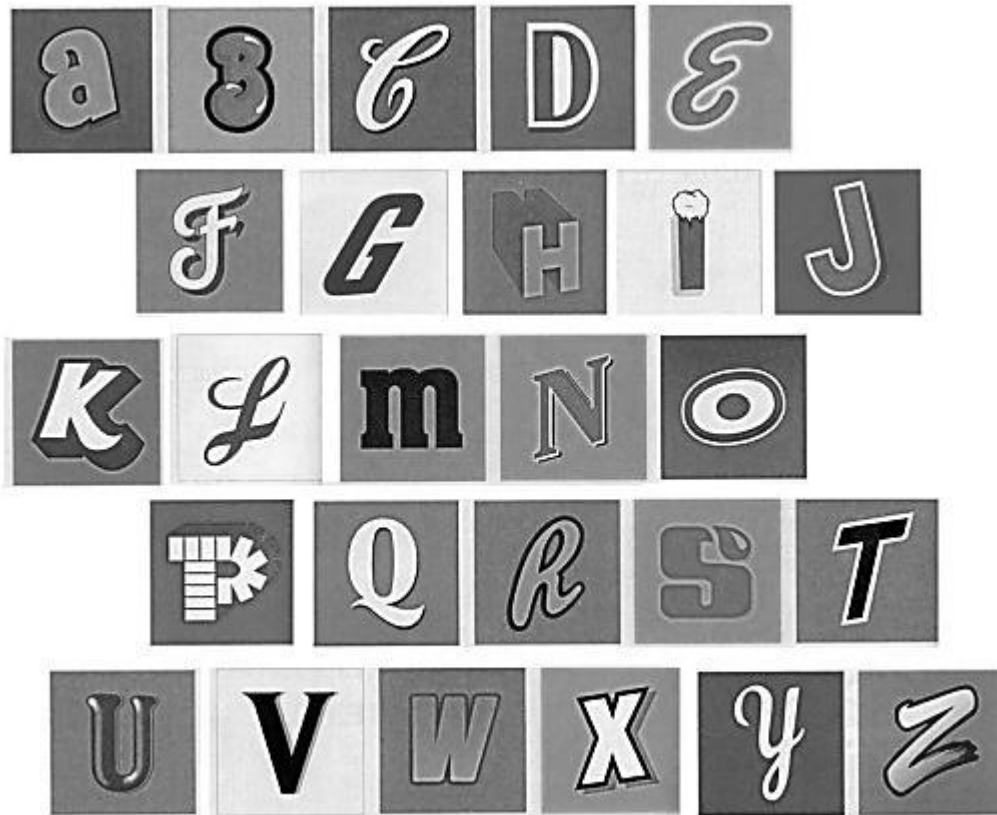
Energiser

- To recognise the meaning of one life
- To interpret and comprehend the meaning of infinity

Objectives



Write down a key/related word
related to the concept of infinity
for as many letters of the
alphabet as you can.



Starter Activity:
A-Z

One Human Life

My life is not an end in and of itself. My life is a contribution to the ongoing human project.

Introductory
Video



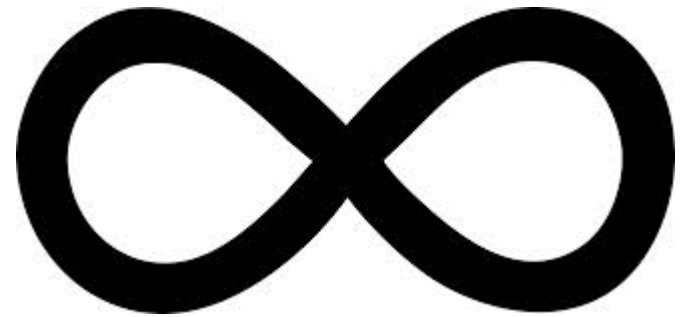


5 min. research time | 10 min. sharing time

Research and Present

- 1. Zeno's paradox**
- 2. Infinite Monkey Theorem**
- 3. Hotel Infinity**
- 4. Fractals (Mandelbrot Sets)**
- 5. Pi**

Activity 1:
Mantle of Expert





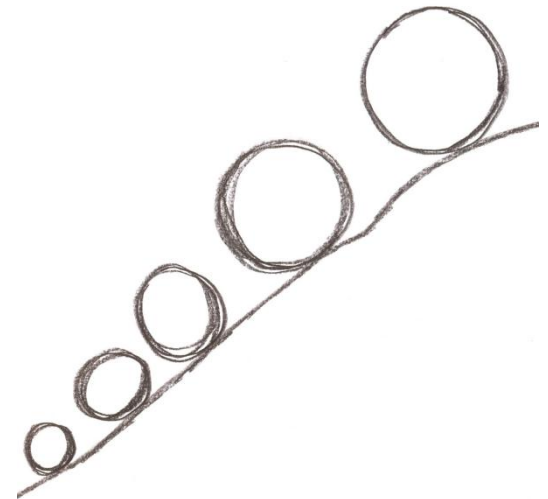
3 min. writing time | 5 min. sharing time

Group 1: Make a list of things you'd do if you could live for infinity

Group 2: Make a list of things humans have achieved by collaborating over many generations.

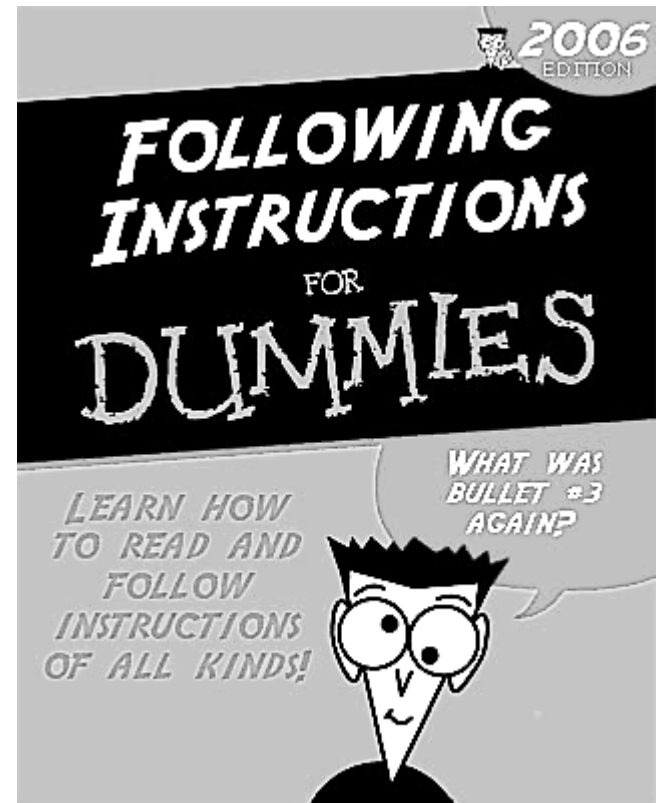
Group 3: Make a list of things humans should focus on if our species could exist forever.

**Activity 2:
Snowballing**



Write out a set of instructions on

how humans can solve our problems and start to dream big dreams for our species.



Plenary:
Instructions for
Dummies

- Watch *The Cosmos: Universe or Multiverse?* on YouTube
- Write an article or blog post about the meaning of one life and how what we do in our lifetime can have an impact on other lives.



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

We are Matter



Reading task in
prep for next
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Who's the Leader?



Energiser

- To recognise our material connection with the universe
- To comprehend what $E=MC^2$ means

Objectives



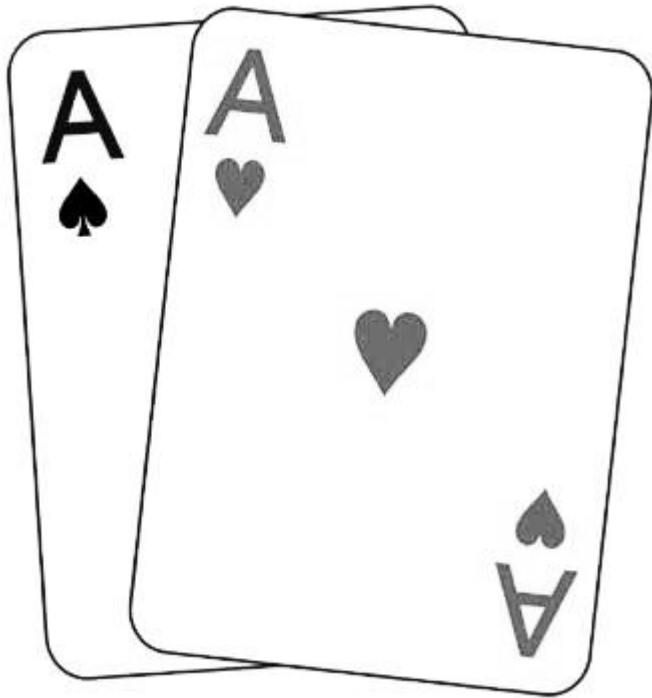
WE ARE MATTER.

In cosmic terms, we are just tiny clumps of matter. Like all matter, we are subject to the forces of cosmic evolution. Is our fate then inextricably tied to the fate of our Universe? Not necessarily, after all we are no ordinary clumps of matter.

Introductory Video



Find your partner who has your
matching term.

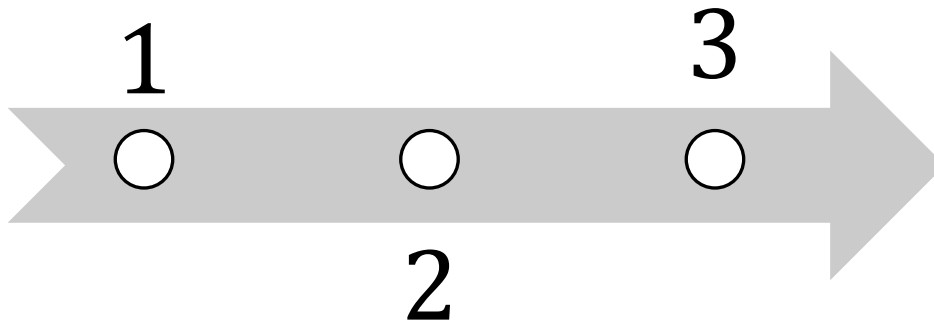


Starter Activity:
Match the term



2 min. reading time | **5 min. viewing time**

In groups, convert the information in resource sheet 4b into a timeline or a flowchart.



Activity 1:
Conversion



7 min.

Evidence for

THE

BIG BANG

On the count of 3, search for the evidence hidden around the room and stick it on the whiteboard.

Activity 2:
Seek the answer





3 min. writing time | 5 min. sharing time



$$E=mc^2$$

**What does it
mean?**

**Activity 3:
Reward the
expert**





3 min. writing time | 5 min. sharing time

**Watch the two short
musical videos closely
and make a mental note
of the lyrics**



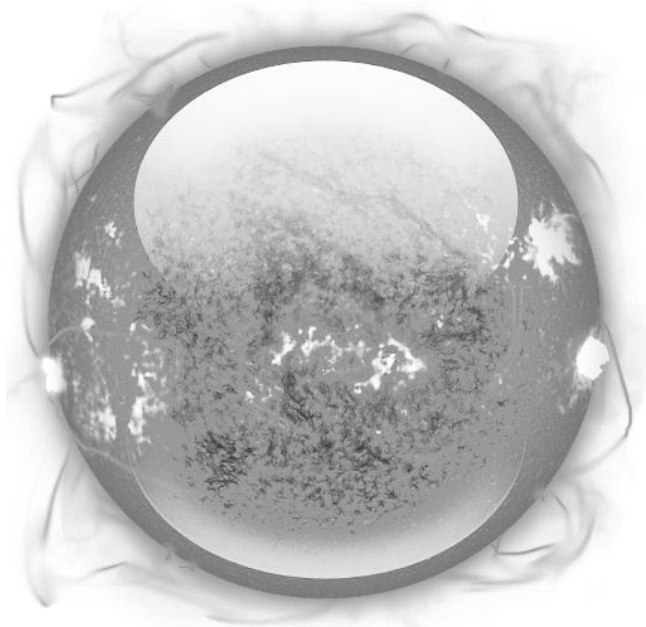
**Plenary:
Symphony of
Science**





3 min. writing time | 5 min. sharing time

In groups of three explain to each other what it means to say “*we are stardust*” and “*we are all connected*” from a scientific perspective.



**Plenary:
Triads**



Read about

- **Carl Sagan**
- **Lawrence Krauss**
- **Richard Feynman**
- **Neil deGrasse Tyson**



**Extension
Activities**

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

We are Life



Reading task in
prep for next
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WHO ARE YOU?



Energiser

- To discuss what constitutes life.
- To consider the features of extra-terrestrial life

Objectives



WE ARE LIFE.

In biological terms, we are a complex form of life. Like all life, we harvest matter and energy from our surroundings. We rely on the energy of a star. Is our fate then inextricably bound to the fate of our star? Not necessarily, after all, we are no ordinary form of life.

Introductory Video



Draw the word.

The team with the least number
of seconds wins.



Starter Activity:
Pictionary



10 min. prep time | 10 min. performance time

**In groups, create a radio infomercial
in which you talk about what life is
and what its features are.**

**You may use some of the content in
resource sheet 5a**



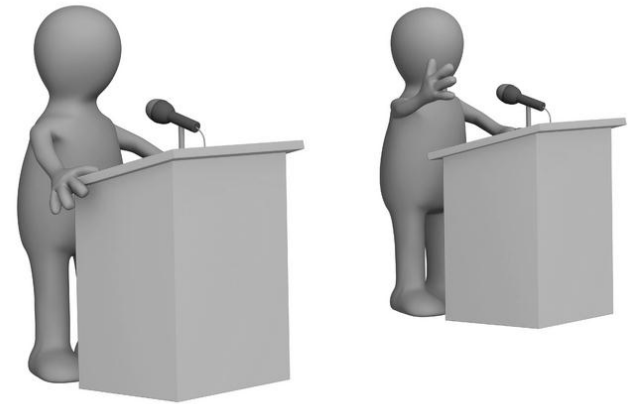
Activity 1:
Radio
infomercial



10 min. prep time | 10 min. debate time

Motion:

**“This house believes that
seeds are a form of life.”**



Activity 2:
Debate



3 min. writing time | 5 min. sharing time



In pairs, draw a mind map of some of the features of possible life on an alien planet.

Be prepared to justify your views.

Plenary:
Spider Diagram /
Mind Map



- **Research about SETI**
- **Write either a blogpost, or a magazine article, or, an argumentative essay justifying the search for extra-terrestrial life.**
- **Make a painting/sketch of what alien life might look like. (Don't be inspired by Hollywood).**



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

We are Culture



Reading task in
prep for next
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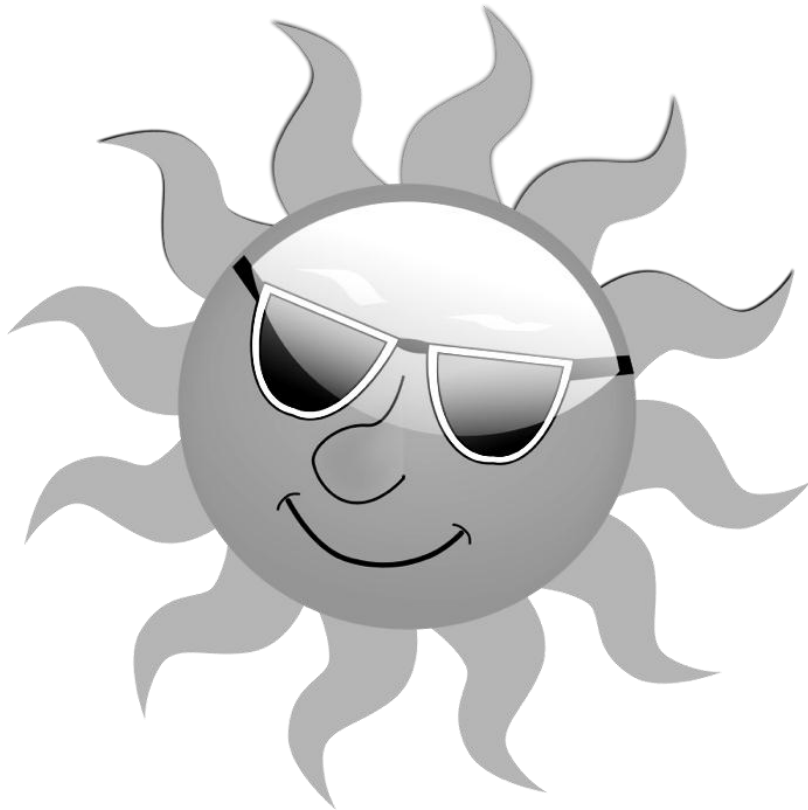
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The Sun
shines
on...



Energiser

- To discuss what we mean by culture
- To analyse the difference between genes and memes

Objectives



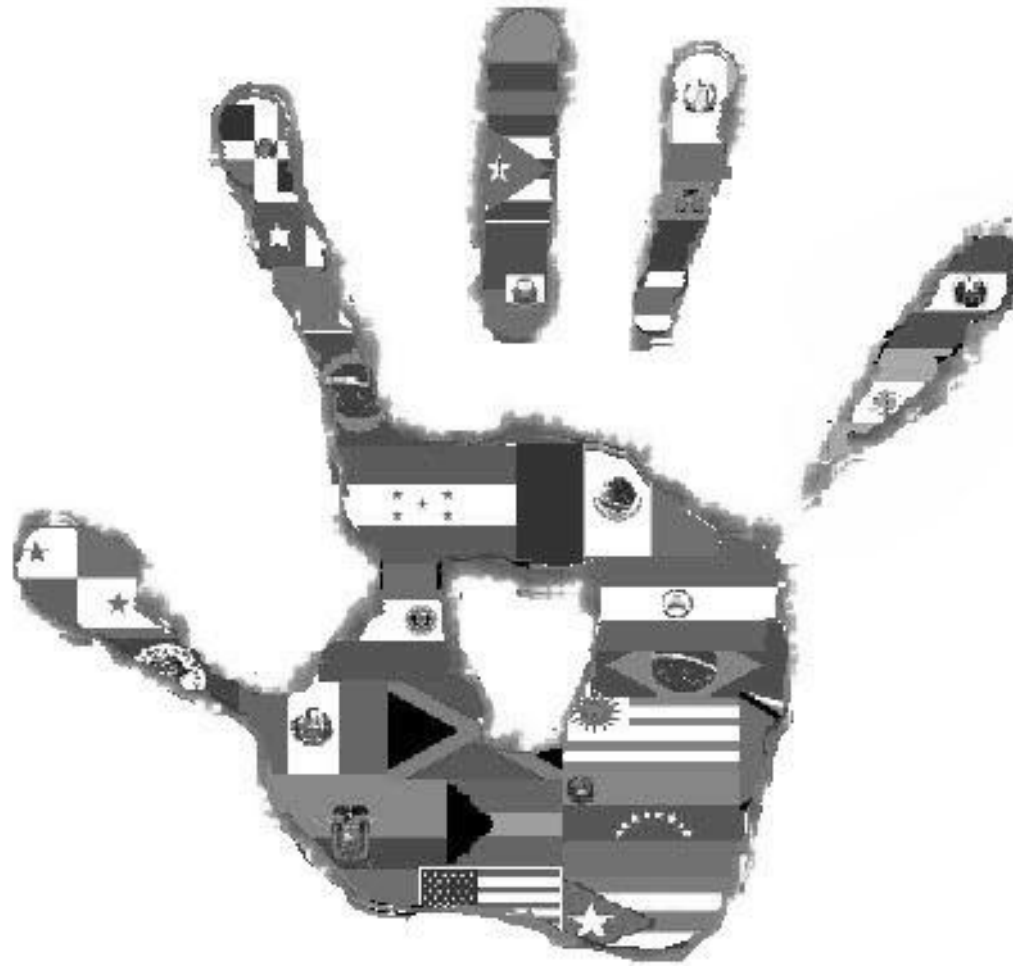
We are Culture.

We are a culturally learning species. Could we learn our way to the end of the 22nd century? Could we outlive our star? Could we prevail over entropy?

Introductory Video

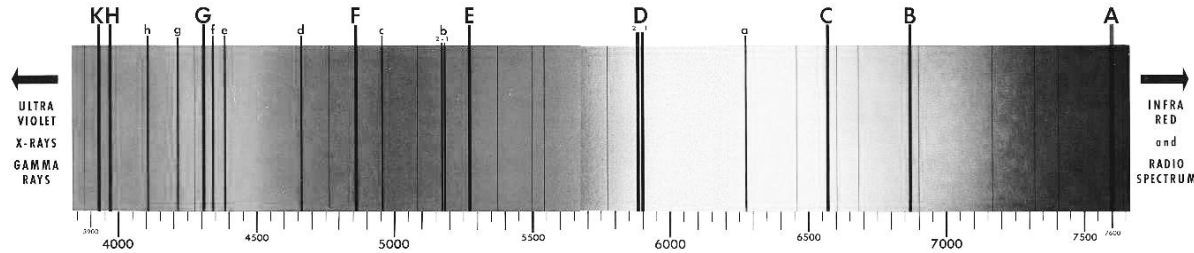


Use your mini-whiteboards to write your own definition of what **culture** is.



Starter Activity: Definition

Activity 1: Spectrum of Agreement



Intercultural Dialogue...

1. Is a waste of time; People should just talk to people from their own cultures
2. Is more important now than it was in the past
3. Means opening your mind and accepting that everyone is different
4. Is about having friends in different countries
5. Simply means exchanging information
6. Can cause problems but it can also have happy endings
7. Is impossible because everyone disagrees about food, religion, clothing, education etc.
8. Is for politicians, not for people like us
9. Means that everyone should communicate with someone from another culture at least once in their life.
10. Can be just two people talking or it can be hundreds of nations communicating
11. Means diluting cultures.
12. Is about showing people that everyone is the same on the inside
13. Is about helping people to understand immigration
14. Saves lives
15. Is too much effort because of all the different languages in the world
16. Involves teaching each others that stereotypes are misleading and dangerous
17. Is about treating the world as one big family



10 min. prep time | 5 min. display time



**Research on the internet
and design an information
brochure about the
difference between
memes and genes.**



**Activity 2:
Information
Brochure**



3 min. writing time | 5 min. sharing time



*"We are now at the
beginning of infinity.
Whatever is not
prohibited by the laws of
physics is possible."*

- David Deutsch

What can it mean to be at the beginning of infinity? Think 500 years into the future – what can the human species achieve through rational memes, exponential growth in technology, and by culturally collaborating on a species level?

Plenary:
Group Discussion



- **Read about Ray Kurzweil's Six Epochs of Information Evolution**
- **Read about John Smart's Transcension Hypothesis**
- **Watch Jason Silva's video mash up on the 'Transcension Hypothesis'**



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

Our Mental Frames



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prep for next
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GROUP STATUES



Energiser

- To highlight the challenges that could impact the survival of our species

- To discuss 2050 milestones for our species

Objectives





Existential Threats

Global warming
Nuclear holocaust
Asteroid impact
Supernova
Magnetic reversal
Pandemics
Alien invasion
Grey goo
Biological warfare
Entropy

Big Crunch
Andromeda Collision
Alien Invasion
Super Volcano
Genocide, A.I.
Mega-Tsunami
Peak Oil
Dark Nebula
Black Holes
M.A.D.

Starter Activity: Bingo





5 min. reading time | 10 min. discussion time

The Earth Wall
The Time Wall
The Abstraction Ceiling



Activity 1:
Discussion
Carousel

2045 – A new era for humanity

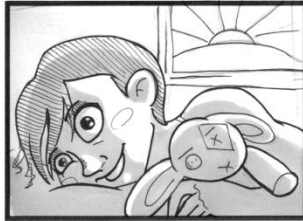
The main goals of the 2045 Initiative: the creation and realization of a new strategy for the development of humanity which meets global civilization challenges; the creation of optimal conditions promoting the spiritual enlightenment of humanity; and the realization of a new futuristic reality based on 5 principles: high spirituality, high culture, high ethics, high science and high technologies.

YouTube
Video





10 min.



PANEL #1

Cut to Kat in bed. At the sound of the alarm, her eyes snap open dramatically and she sits up abruptly out of the frame. Sound: Bouncy, comical music begins when Kat opens her eyes, and the sound of the alarm.



PANEL #2

Kat pops into frame, as though she's sat up out of bed and into the shower. She washes her hair without looking at her hands once as the steam fills the screen. Sound: Squirting bottle, water running, music con't.



PANEL #3

Cut to a closet full of dresses. Kat twirls past, pausing to sway in her dress as though dancing. She moves offscreen. (her movements are bouncy and quick) Sound: swooshing cloth, music con't.



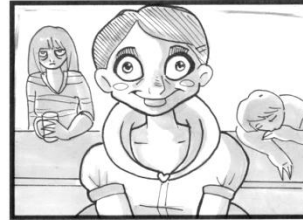
PANEL #4

Cut to closed front door. Kat bursts through the door, waving over her shoulder. She prances offscreen and the door slams behind her. Sound: door opening and slamming closed, a cheerful giggle, music con't.



PANEL #5

Cut to an empty forest path. The shot is static as Kat skips past, followed by the forest creatures. They all exit the shot. Sound: Bouncing and animal sounds, music con't.



PANEL #6

Cut to a close up of Kat's face. Slow zoom out as the music comes to a dramatic finish. Sound: music end.

Activity 2: Storyboard

Individually, think of one milestone for the year 2050.

Draw a sequence of events storyboard on how we might achieve it.



5 min.

What if we hadn't done today's lesson?

What if you weren't allowed to know what we've learnt today?

Plenary:
What if...?



- **Read about Ray Kurzweil's predictions about events that will lead to the technological singularity.**
- **Visit 2045.com and read their vision critically.**
- **Consider the pros and cons of The Venus Project**



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

How we Sustain Ourselves



Reading task in
prep for next
week

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A's & B's



Energiser

- To identify the issues relating to sustainability.

- To create a manual/charter for Club EARTH 2050

Objectives





Starter Activity: Tableaux – Sources of Energy

Pale Blue Dot

This excerpt from Carl Sagan's book, *A Pale Blue Dot* was inspired by an image taken, at Sagan's suggestion, by Voyager 1 on February 14, 1990. As the spacecraft left our planetary neighbourhood for the fringes of the solar system, engineers turned it around for one last look at its home planet. Voyager 1 was about 6.4 billion km away, when it captured this portrait of our world.

YouTube
Video



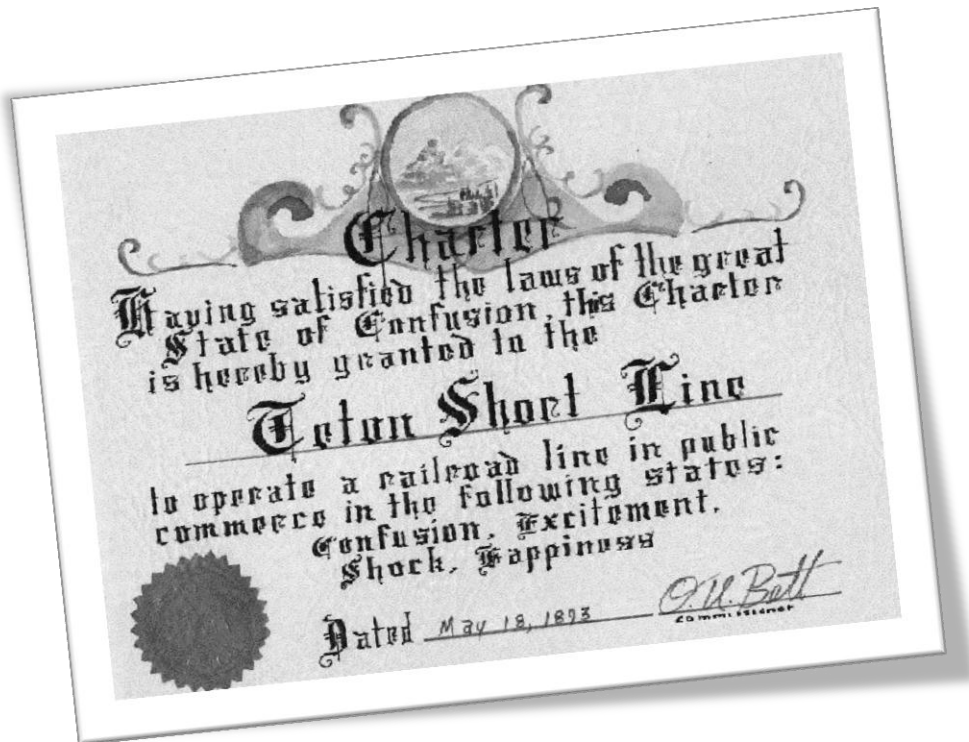


25 min. prep time

Use the resource sheet 8b to create an earth manual for Club EARTH 2050.

Focus on :

- Mission Statement
- Club Members
- How the governors will be chosen
- Issues to tackle
- How to amend the charter



Activity 1: Earth Manual



5 min. presentation time per group

**Present your charter
for Club EARTH 2050
to the rest of the class.**



Plenary:
Presentation



- Visit earth2hub.com and critically review its contents.
- View *Earth 2.0: Initialisation* on YouTube



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

How we resolve conflicts



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prep for next
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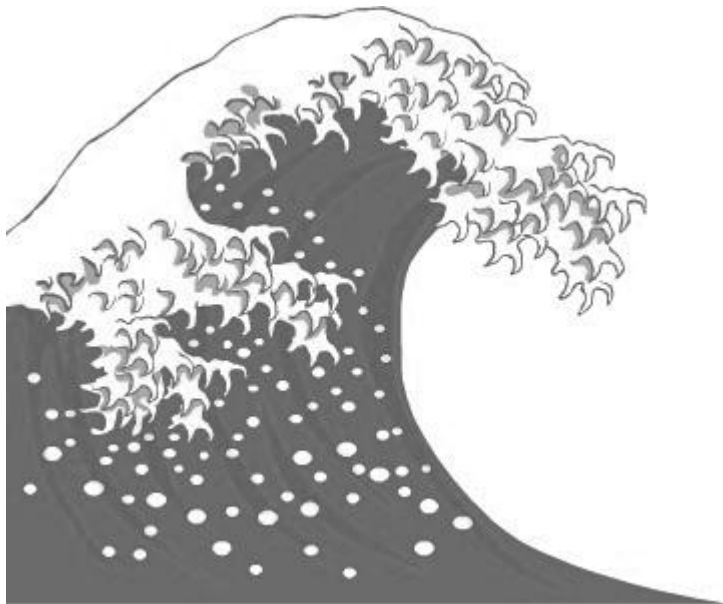
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Tide's in, Tide's out



Energiser

- To differentiate between rational and irrational memes.
- To identify reasons for human conflicts and means of resolution
- To design a Peace Meme Collaborative

Objectives





5 min. presentation time per group

**In Groups, make a list of all
the reasons for human
conflict.**

Starter Activity:
Lists



Jason Silva on 'Abundance'

This video is inspired by the new book ABUNDANCE, written by X-Prize Founder and Singularity University co-founder, Peter Diamandis and writer Steven Kotler. In it, they explain how exponentially emerging technologies can be leveraged to address humanity's grand challenges... The possibilities are dazzling.

YouTube
Video





10 min. discussion time | 5 min. display time



**Read resource
sheet 9a about
memes.**

**Come up with
examples of
rational and
anti-rational
memes in the
world today that
will contribute
to or take away
from world
peace.**



**Activity 1:
Memes**



10 min. writing time | 5 min. display time

**In the form of recipe instructions,
write your thoughts on how to
create a Peace Meme Collaborative**



Activity 2:
Recipe



5 min. presentation time per group

**Unscramble the following
anagrams of memes and
separate them into rational
and anti-rational groups.**

1. teorimsrr
2. sinceec
3. lnuagaeg
4. csroehnnspi
5. pstcila sugreyr

Plenary:
Anagrams



- Watch Steven Pinker's TED talk on the surprising decline in violence
- Watch Peter Diamandis' TED talk on Abundance



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on

How we spend our lives.



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O Kabita!



Energiser

- To analyse the importance of creativity and the freedom to create.

- To discuss the meaning of creativity.

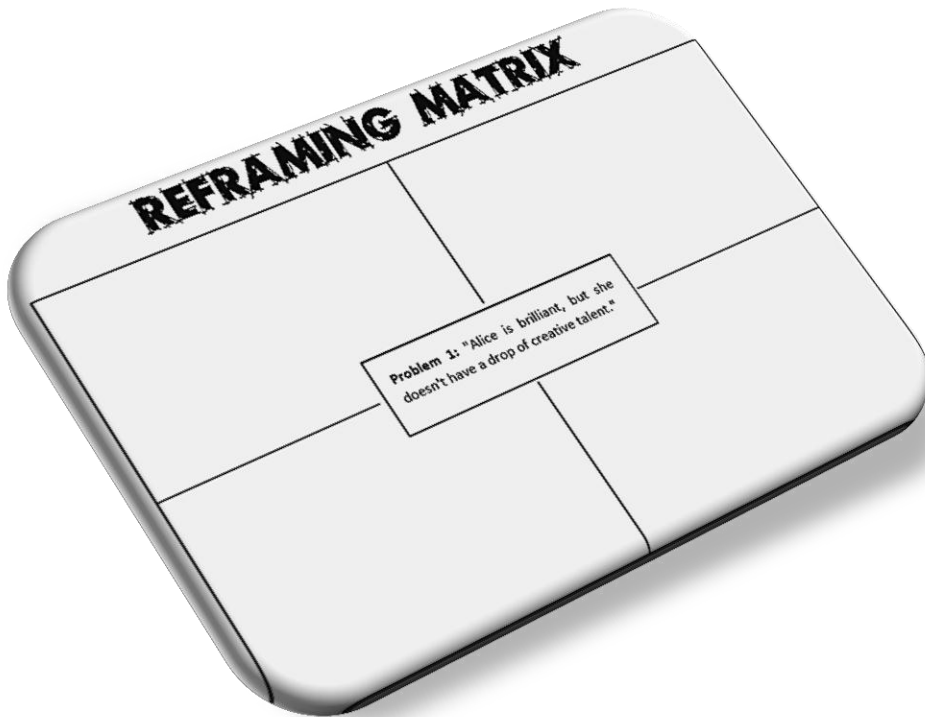
Objectives





5 min.

**Write your responses to problems 1
and 2 in the reframing matrices.
(Resource sheets 10a, 10b)**



**Starter Activity:
Reframing Matrix**

Jason Silva on 'Radical Openness'

An anthem on the power of IDEAS. “” Ideas are like organisms, they replicate, they have infectivity and spreading power; they leap from brain to brain and compete for the limited attention of our minds.

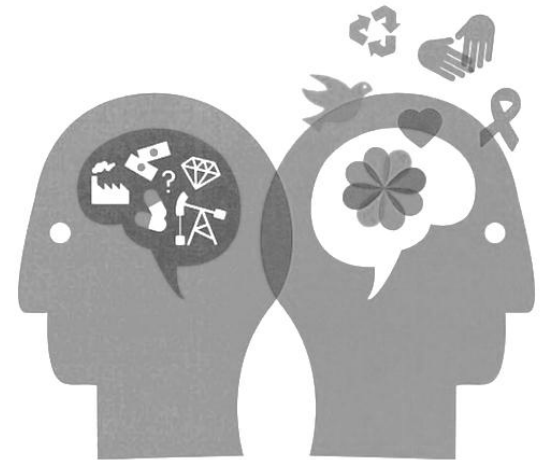
YouTube
Video





10 min. prep time | 10 min. presentation time

Present your ideas on what creativity means, either through:
art, music/song, role, play, poetry,
rap, essay, or speech.



Activity 1:
Creativity
and Multiple
Intelligences



10 min. prep time

The room is now a press conference to announce the idea of a Universal Freedom to Create.

We need:

- A panel of expert speakers who will make a statement.
- A selection of reporters who will question the experts and quiz them for more information.

Use information from resource sheet 10c



Activity 2
Role Play:
Press Conference



15 min.

**Role play and enact the
press conference.**

**(The aim is to tease out
what a Universal Freedom
to Create means)**

Plenary:
Conference role play



- Watch Ken Robinson's TED talks on *How Schools Kill Creativity*
- Think about this statement: "*We could one day become substrate independent minds that will infuse intelligence into every corner of the universe. We could be landscaping the fabric of space itself.*"



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on *How we
create knowledge.*



Reading task in
prep for next
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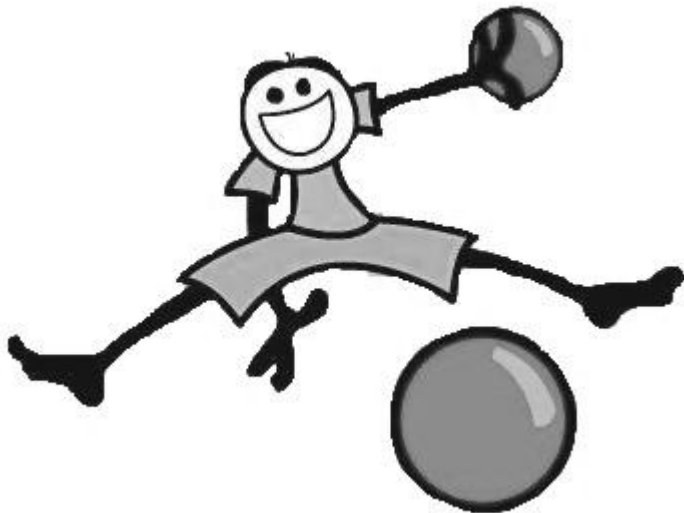
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11

DODGEBALL



Energiser

- To consider the difference between fact and opinion.

- To analyse whether science is the best way to acquire knowledge.

Objectives



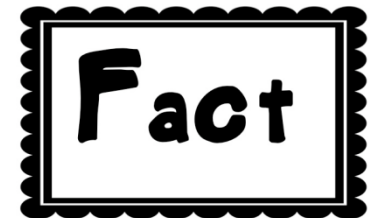


5 min.

**In groups, discuss the difference
between fact, opinion, value
judgement, and revelation.**



**Starter Activity:
Fact or Opinion**





5 min.

- **“The sun is made of hydrogen and helium.”**
- **“It is wrong for people to eat meat.”**
- **“I knew the 9/11 attacks would happen because I had a dream of a plane crashing into a building.”**
- **“I think the moon is a huge ball of cabbage.”**

Starter Activity:
Fact or Opinion

**Jason Silva: To understand is to
perceive patterns**

To understand is to perceive
patterns. Of course what this
means is that true
comprehension comes when
the dots are revealed and you
get Steven Johnson's long view
when you see the big picture.

YouTube
Video

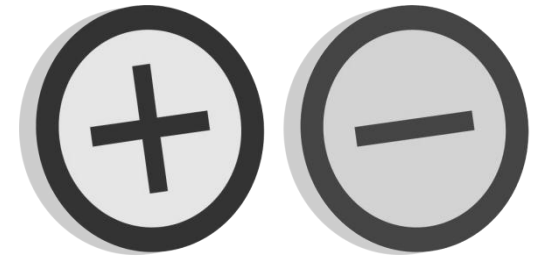
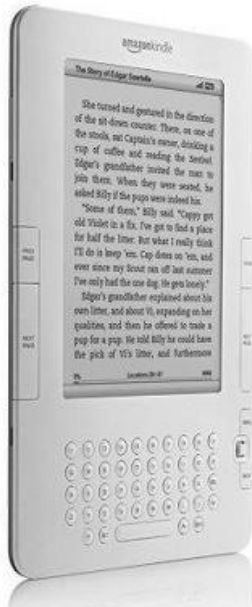




10 min. discussion time | 10 min. sharing time

In triads, fill out the grid in resource sheet 11a for the action below:

Action: Humans should pursue unlimited knowledge. With time, we should aim to know everything.



Activity 1:
Plus, minus,
interesting



10 min. prep time

Use the Ladder of Inference resource sheets 11b and 11c

Reflect on the following statement:
“Science is the best way to acquire knowledge” and fill in the form.



Activity 2
Ladder of
Inference



10 min. prep time

Here's a 5 min TED Ed video that explains the Ladder of Inference:

Example:

Reality and facts: A lady's baby happens to get autism after taking an MMR vaccine.

Selected Reality: The lady ignores millions of vaccinated babies who are fine.

Interpreted Reality: She thinks the autism is caused by the vaccine.

Assumptions: She assumes her child would be fine if not for the vaccine

Conclusions: She concludes that all MMR vaccines cause autism.

Beliefs: She believes that medical science is phony and mainstream medicine is dangerous.

Actions: She campaigns against MMR vaccines on talk shows and in the press.



Activity 2
Ladder of Inference



15 min.

**Share your views on the
conclusions you've
reached from the ladder of
inference activity.**

Plenary:

Share your views



Consider all the things you believe to be true.

Reflect on how true you think they are and whether they are **fact, opinion, or revelation.**



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on *How we use
knowledge.*



Reading task in
prep for next
week

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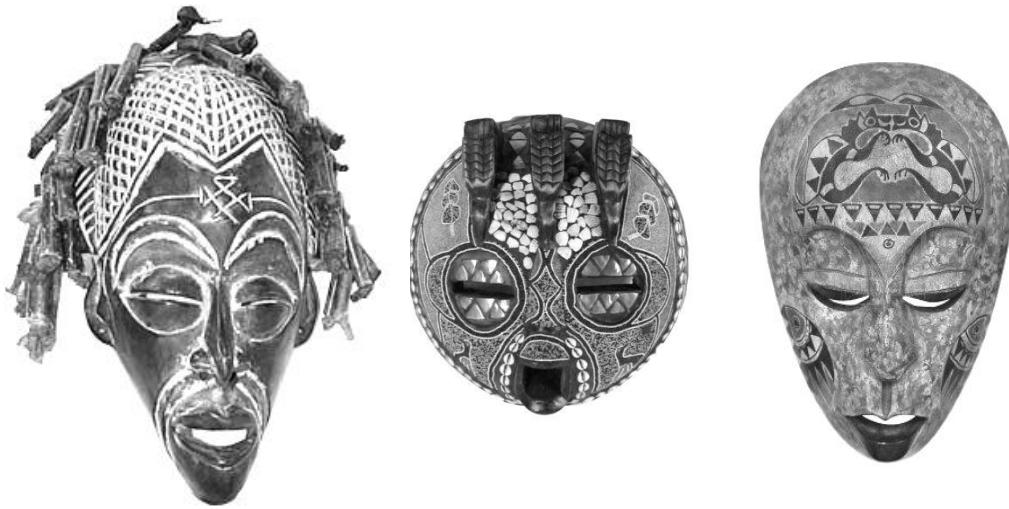
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12



**Sagidi Sagidi
Sapupo!!**



Energiser

- To evaluate how we use knowledge.
- To analyse what it means to be human now and in the distant future

Objectives





5 min.

**“We use knowledge to create new realities.” – the
HUMAN project**

**“Think of exciting future possibilities and pull the
present to meet it.”- The Imaginary Foundation**

**Paint a picture in words of how we can use knowledge to
create new future realities and describe what it would
look like.**



**Starter Activity:
Paint a picture with
words**



Jason Silva:
Transcension Hypothesis

The Transcension Hypothesis
by John Smart offers an
account of what comes after
the technological singularity.

YouTube
Video

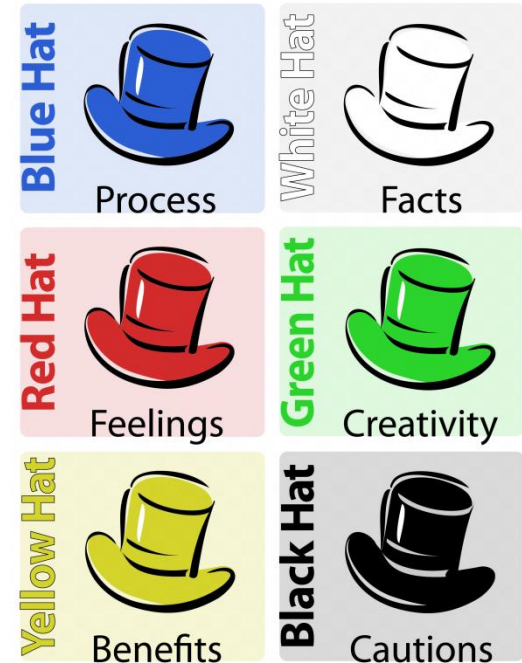




15 min. discussion time | 10 min. sharing time

Think about the possibility of uploading the human mind to computers and living for ever.

- **Blue hat:** How we might overcome death – the process behind it.
- **White Hat:** Just facts about uploading consciousness/the human mind
- **Red Hat:** Feelings about living forever either biologically or digitally
- **Green Hat:** Future possibilities for the human species
- **Yellow Hat:** Benefits of living forever.
- **Black Hat:** Things to be cautious about; potential dangers; play devil's advocate - say what opponents might say about living forever.



Activity 1:
**Six Thinking
Hats**



10 min.

In groups, create a 30-second news bulletin for one of the following statements.

(Cheer or hiss in response)

- Smart, dexterous machines that can perceive, think, learn and move at inhuman speeds without a wink of sleep.
- The first genetically modified and enhanced human being created in a lab.
- 3D printer successfully prints food.



Plenary:
New Bulletin

Read about how **Singularity University** and the techno-progressive think tank **IEET** run programs to explore future impacts of advanced technologies and prepare the general public for what's coming.



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

How we share knowledge.



Reading task in
prep for next
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**Captain's
Coming!**



Energiser

- To examine how we share knowledge.

- To create a library of utopia using the design thinking process

Objectives

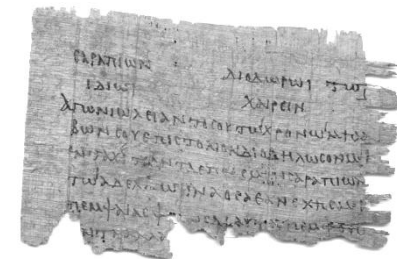
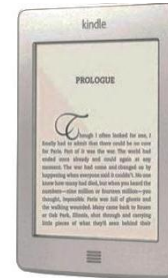
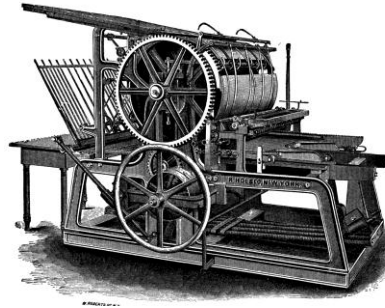




5 min.

Starter Activity: Arrange in order

Arrange the words/images in the right order of technological evolution.



Jason Silva:
A mind made for mating

With the advent of culture, we "technologies of rhetoric" to 'capture the attention' of others, except no longer to spread our genes but to spread our MEMES, a new replicator, born from the primordial soup human culture... one that leaps and spreads....

YouTube
Video



Activity 1: Design Thinking



40 min.

Design a **Library of Utopia** think about the possibility of uploading the human mind to computers and living for ever. Go through the first 4 steps of design thinking:

1. Discovery 2. Interpretation 3. Ideation 4. Experimentation.

Points to consider:

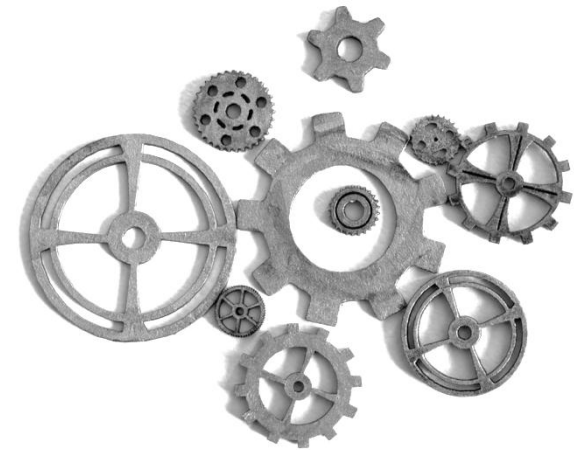
What will go in the library? Who will have control over content? Where will it be stored and in what form? Who can add to it?





10 min.

Each group presents the prototype that they've developed in the experimentation phase.



Plenary:
Prototype

If we had to compress the totality of human knowledge onto mere 10 pages of text or 10 minutes of a documentary, what would they be like?.



Extension
Activities

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

How we organise.



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prep for next
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VERBAL

TENNIS



Energiser

- To discuss how we should organise to reach our goal of sharing, surviving, and ascending as a species.

Objectives





15 min.

Social networks + crowd-funding platforms + massive scale collaboration platforms = unprecedented potential to accomplish shared goals.

- **Social Networks**
- **Crowd-funding platforms**
- **Massive-Scale Collaboration**
- **Philanthropic Foundations**

Each group has 15 minutes search online and find as many examples of the category they've been assigned to.



Starter Activity:
Scavenger Hunt

**Jason Silva:
Radical Openness**

An anthem on the power of
IDEAS and the free exchange of
information.

YouTube
Video





Each group presents 3 of the most interesting examples of the category they'd been assigned to.

5 minutes per group.



20 min.



Activity 1:
Group
Presentation



20 min.

How can we make the most out of our expanding connections to take on the challenges that affect the trajectory of the on-going human project?



Plenary:
Group Discussion

**Read more about the
collaboration platforms and
crowd-sourcing forums in
the world today.**



**Extension
Activities**

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

*How we expand our
presence.*



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prep for next
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CELEBRITY STEREOTYPE PARTY



Energiser

- To identify reasons why we should leave our planet.
- To analyse what cosmic culture might look like.
- To create a list of responsibilities for the cosmic citizen.

Objectives





5 min.

Search for the reasons why we should leave our planet and tack it on to the whiteboard.



Starter Activity:
Treasure Hunt

Jason Silva: Imagination

Sartre said, "Because we can imagine, we are Free!"... this video mash up is an exploration of just what that idea means...

YouTube
Video





Cosmic Culture

Make a visual representation of what cosmic culture will look like.

You may add post-its, mind-maps, images, phrase etc.



20 min.



Activity 1: Giant Poster



20 min.

Cosmic Citizen Bill of Rights and Responsibilities



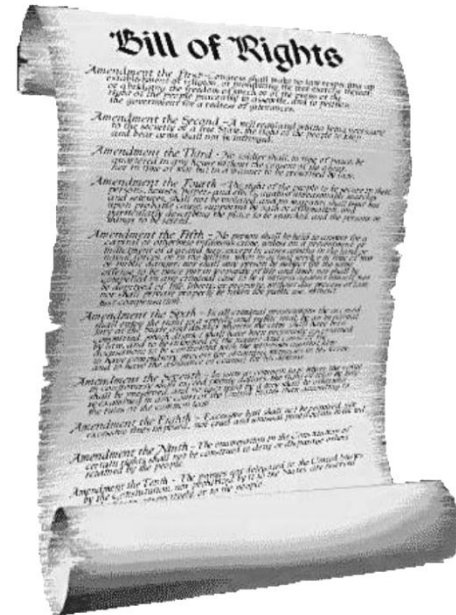
Activity 2:
Bill of Rights and
Responsibilities



20 min.

Displays your Bill of Rights and Responsibilities.

Walk around and read Bills created by other groups.



Plenary:
Display

**Read more about the
existential threats facing
our planet.**



**Extension
Activities**

Read the HUMAN project
app content on:

*The Purpose, Agenda, and
Organisation of the HUMAN
project.*



Reading task in
prep for next
week

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