

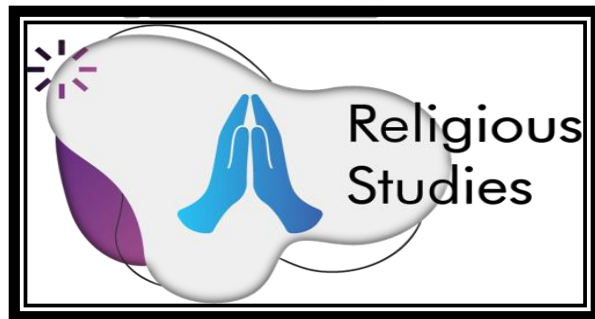
*We did not inherit the Earth from  
our ancestors; we borrow it from our  
children.*

What do you think the above Amish saying means?



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# Environmental responsibility/ global citizenship (Humanist perspective)



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WALT – Explore Humanist views on environmental responsibility

**WALT:** Explore Humanist views on environmental responsibility

# What is a Global Citizen?

- The idea that we should see ourselves as part of a world community. We should view the whole world as our home, not just the town where we live or our country of birth.

## What might some of the roles or responsibilities of a global citizen be?

- Is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen
- Respects and values diversity
- Has an understanding of how the world works economically, politically, socially, culturally, technologically and environmentally.
- Against social injustice
- Participates in and contributes to the community at a range of levels from local to global
- Is willing to act to make the world a more sustainable place
- Takes responsibility for their actions



Does a global citizen have an environmental responsibility?

Explain your answer

# Environmental responsibility

**Environmental responsibility** means that humans should look after the world in such a way that future generations can enjoy it too. It involves not using up the world's natural resources and ensuring that the planet is cared for and preserved.

We can opt for basic environmental responsibility by taking small actions.

Can you name any everyday examples?

- Close the water tap when washing your teeth
- Turn off the light when leaving a room
- Eat seasonal fruits and vegetables
- When taking small trips, the family bikes instead of using the car



# Why should people look after the environment?

## Religion- Stewardship

Stewardship means caring for the planet and managing its resources. A steward is like a trustee or a caretaker; they are responsible for looking after someone's property while that person is away. Many believers say that God has given humans the special duty to care for the world in his place, as his precious possession.



Write a paragraph explaining what reasons a religious person and a humanist may give for wanting to look after the environment.

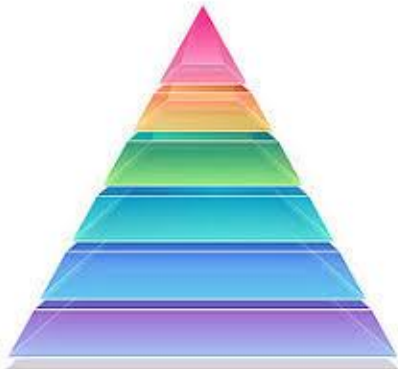
## Humanism- Human responsibility

What reasons might Humanists give for wanting to protect the environment?

Humanists try to base their thinking on reasoning and evidence, rejecting ideas that rely on belief in a supernatural being (God). Most humanists agree with the ideas of stewardship; they say that we have a responsibility to work for a more sustainable world, causing as little harm to the environment as possible. However, they believe this because they say it makes sense, not because God has placed us here for that purpose.

# Humanist perspectives- Environmental issues

- Read through the different perspectives provided by Humanists on environmental issues.
- Rank them from 1- 6. 1= I agree strongly with this because...
- If there are any that you do not agree with, place them towards the bottom and provide reasons why.



Evidence shows us how heavily our **welfare** is dependent on the environment and the continued existence of many other species. Contact with animals and the natural world can also contribute to **human happiness**.

**Empathy** is important when deciding how to act towards others. We should extend this empathy to future generations and to other sentient animals.

This is the **one and only life and world we have**. We should therefore make the most of it. But we must also support others to make the most of it too, and that includes future generations.

There are no supernatural forces to help us. Human beings alone are **responsible** for solving our environmental problems.

**Science and technology** may have contributed to the damage the environment has suffered, but they will also be necessary to find solutions to our environmental challenges.

**Birth control** can play an important role in reducing the demands human beings place on the environment.

# H4BW – ‘Humanists for a Better World’

H4BW (Humanists for a Better World) is an organisation that works alongside the British Humanist Association. H4BW work on, and raise awareness of, environmental, social and global issues. Their aim is to tackle issues that face the world today and solve them for the sake of today's and tomorrow's generations.

Activity- Research more about the organisation using the 5W's.

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- Why?



Are there any current campaigns that you may be interested in getting involved with? [How you can help](#) » [Humanists UK](#)



# COP26- Setting and achieving goals

- The COP26 summit brought parties together to speed up action towards the goals of Climate Change.
- What are the main points made in David Attenborough's speech?
- Are there any goals you could set yourself to become more environmentally responsible?





## Extension- Is Human life more valuable?

- As global citizens who have an environmental responsibility to care for the planet. Does this give us more rights than animals?
- Do you think human life is more important than animal life?
- **Complete the table below. Use examples where possible.**

Human life is more important	Both are important	Animal life is more important



## Further Study

Read the Word document titled Environmental-Issues-Humanist-Perspective to find out more and discuss the questions at the end.



# Plenary- Finish the sentence

- A global citizen is...
- Environmentally responsible means...
- A Humanist is...
- Stewardship means...
- Reasons a Humanists may give for wanting to protect the environment are...
- I want to protect the environment because...

