Pilgrimage Moments: A Humanist Explanation

Introduction

This lesson explores themes discussed in the TrueTube film *Pilgrimage Moments: A Humanist Explanation from The Road to Santiago series (up to 1minute 30).*

The concept of the difference between atheism and humanism – morality and where it comes from.

This lesson would work well as part of a unit about 'Why do some people believe in God and others not?' or 'What matters most to Humanists and Christians?'

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Lesson Plan

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Overview

Suitable for: Upper Key Stage 2

Lesson Objective: To explore the concept of the difference between atheism and humanism and how morality fits into this.

Key Question: What is the difference between atheism and humanism? Where does morality come from?
Time: 1 hour

TrueTube Film: Pilgrimage Moments: A Humanist Explanation (Up to 1 minute 30)

Resources: Internet connected whiteboard

Film List

This clip comes from the BBC Series: Pilgrimage – The Road to Santiago (Up to 1 minute 30).

Patron of Humanists UK, Ed gives his fellow Pilgrims a description of what it means to be a Humanist. He says it is different to being just an atheist – someone who doesn't believe in God – because you can be an evil atheist; Humanists strive to be good and have morality. The conversation turns to where goodness and morality come from: is it God?

Starter:

Begin the lesson with a Think-Pair-Share activity, which is: 30 seconds alone to think about an answer to a question (or questions), 1 minute to discuss their answers with a partner, and then a short class discussion with contributions from the pairs.

Questions:

- What do you know about atheism/ atheists?
- What do you know about humanism/ humanists?

Extension:

- Where do you think morality (a sense of right and wrong) comes from?
- Do you think everyone has a sense of what is right and what is wrong?

Key Words:

My turn your turn these words: (5minutes)

Pilgrimage A journey to a sacred or holy place.

Pilgrim Someone who undertakes a pilgrimage.

Humanism

An atheist worldview that emphasises the importance of reason, empathy and concern for human beings.

Atheist

Someone who believes there is no God.

Morality

Ideas to do with understanding the difference between right and wrong.

Values

Someone's judgement about what is important in life.

Main activity:

1. Watch the clip Pilgrimage Moments: A Humanist Explanation – TrueTube
2. Think pair share on what impressions you get of Ed?
3. What points did Ed make about atheism and humanism and the difference between them .

4. Think pair share on how you would explain the difference.
5. Watch this video featuring Alice Roberts from Understanding Humanism Human nature, human potential » Understanding Humanism
   In 'Human nature, human potential', Alice Roberts explores the questions at the heart of humanism: 'What are we?' 'What are we capable of?' and 'How should we make best use of our capacities?'. Humanists believe we have natural origins, and that we can find joy, meaning, and purpose in life, without the need for resources beyond the natural world, but by making the most of our capabilities.
   There are many other resources on the understanding Humanism website that might be useful.
   Understanding Humanism

6. Think - Pair – Share on the moral debate scenarios from the Understanding Humanism website:
   Moral dilemmas (5/7+)

7. Reflect on what you now know about atheists and humanists and the difference. Where do you think morality comes from? What influences people when making choices? Write a short reflection on your thoughts.

Extension:

1. Drawing on your knowledge of other religious worldviews and how making moral choices might be influenced by their beliefs, what might their thoughts be on where morality comes from and what influences the choices they make?