

# There's no such thing as...

People all around our village, our county, our country and our world have different views and ideas about the **big questions** of life. These activities are designed to help you question some of the things which people may or may not believe in.

There are a combination of files to **read**, videos to **watch**, activities to **try** and (most importantly) questions to **think** and **talk** about.

It is great to think deeply about the world around us, to explore what we think and to be able to understand other people better. Lots of these questions don't have right and wrong answers - they are a chance to think and reflect!

Note for parents: This discussion topic will open children up to philosophical thinking. If they talk at all about any of the questions in this plan then this should be considered a success! The older children in your household may then want to explore more of the questions found here, although the youngest children are often the best philosophers of all. Remember to ask that golden question: Why? when they give you an answer. It can be incredibly annoying to do this kind of exploration so keep it light! Know that you are encouraging deeper thinking and asking them for justifications for the ideas they may take for granted.

# There's no such thing as .... freedom.

Are you free? What does it mean to be free? Does it mean we can do whatever we want? Go where we want? Say what we want? Believe and think whatever we want?

Do we always have choices about how we act and behave, or are some things just out of our control? Can we choose how we feel?

Does anyone the right to restrict the freedom of others?

This topic has suggestions for activities, things to read, questions to think about and videos to watch to help you to think about whether any of us are really free.

Just like most of philosophy, there aren't right and wrong answers—it's all about taking time to think about the question—and you'll probably end up with more questions of your own at the end!

Have fun exploring!



Who is more free, you or a wild animal? Watch this short video to think about this idea: <https://vimeo.com/263149503>

### Free speech

Should we be allowed to say whatever we want? What if our words are hurtful or upset other people? If we can't just say anything, who should decide what is OK for people to say? Is it OK to say that it's not OK to say something? Surely I should be free to say whatever I like?

**I disapprove  
of what you say,  
but I will defend  
to the death  
your right to say it.**

- Voltaire



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/pshe-ks1-ks2-am-i-always-responsible-for-my-actions/zdsygw>

The story of the Scorpion and the Frog

Are we responsible for our actions?

If something is in our nature, can we control it? How much control do humans have over our character? If we can't control our character, then are we always responsible for what we do?

If who I am is made up from a combination of my genes (my body and my brain) and my experiences from the world I live in, am I really responsible for anything I do?

What makes me, me? Do I have any control over this? Am I free to be whoever I want to be, or is that chosen for me by my biology and the situation of my birth?

## There's no such thing as...freedom!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b03bkq9q/whats-the-big-idea-44-choice>

This animation thinks about the freedom of choice—if I can choose, why are there some things I have to do?

Am I free to choose how I feel?

### Freedom of religion

Should we be allowed to believe whatever we want? What if our beliefs cause us to act in ways that hurt other people? Is it OK to believe whatever we like, as long as we don't act on it? Is this the same as freedom of thought?



Amnesty International have published a beautiful children's book about human rights called 'Dreams

of Freedom'. This link takes you to a book of activities based around each of the **freedoms** in the declaration of children's human rights—it has lots of ideas for simple crafts and activities to explore all these freedoms. [https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/dreams\\_of\\_freedom\\_fiction\\_and\\_human\\_rights\\_activity\\_ideas\\_0.pdf?3hzwkGqpYwxoHaZfrZTKiPf0yXyTISwm=](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/dreams_of_freedom_fiction_and_human_rights_activity_ideas_0.pdf?3hzwkGqpYwxoHaZfrZTKiPf0yXyTISwm=)

Look into the philosophical thinking behind these questions in more depth by reading this article: [https://kids.kiddle.co/Free\\_will](https://kids.kiddle.co/Free_will)