

Philosophy Explorers

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 explore some of the different ideas that people have about one of these big questions.

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.

Is it fair?

Have you ever played a game and someone else hasn't played by the rules? It isn't fair!

Or what about a time that someone said you can't do something that you want to, but your older brother/sister/friend is allowed to do it? It isn't fair!

Lots of things in life don't feel fair. But what is 'fair' anyway? Who decides? How do we decide? Is fairness the same as justice? Is fairness the same as equality?

This topic has suggestions for activities, things to read, questions to think about and videos to watch to help you to think about what 'fair' really means.

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!



These two BBC animations are a **great introduction to the big idea:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b01rh7bq/whats-the-big-idea-6-what-does-it-mean-to-be-fair>

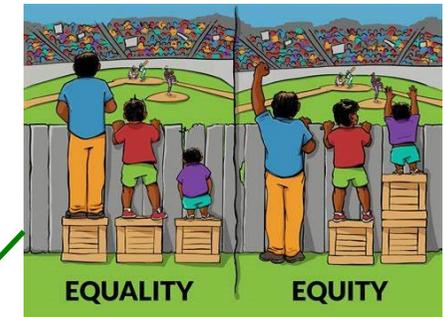
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/pshe-ks1-ks2-what-is-fair/zh98qp3>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NeIRb1LY4&app=desktop>

Listen to a song called 'God of Justice' by Tim Hughes—this is a Christian song, calling people to live justly.

Key questions to think about today:

Does fair mean equal? Who decides what fair is? How can unfairness be reduced? Is injustice inevitable? Whose responsibility is it to make sure that things are fair?



Watch this video about some builders—what do you think—is it fair that everyone got paid the same?

<https://vimeo.com/216811415>

You could also explore the responses of charities to inequality and injustice, e.g. Christian Aid, The Salvation Army, SWAT-London Also organisations like the UN—should governments and nations give money to support others living in poverty? Should individuals be allowed to 'opt out'?

You could also think about Fair Trade—lots of info and ideas here:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/fair-trade>

You could also explore the ideas of crime and punishment—should 'bad' be punished? Who by? Who says? What if the person is sorry—should they be forgiven or still face a consequence? What about accidents—is it fair to 'let someone off' if they didn't mean it? Should victims decide on punishments?

Exploring the question, 'Is it fair?'



The 'Golden Rule' Lots of the world religions have this teaching at their core - treat others as you would like to be treated. But is this the best way to live? Do we live like this? Should we treat others better than ourselves? Should we treat 'good' people better than we treat 'bad' people? What if people don't *want* to be treated the same way that we would like to be treated—should we do it anyway?

Some simple 'Golden Rule' craft and activity suggestions:

<https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/golden-rule-bible-crafts.html>

<http://creativesundayschoolcrafts.blogspot.com/2015/06/golden-rule-free-printable.html?m=1>

Taking it deeper: watch this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A14THPoc4-4&app=desktop> about the Bible's perspective on justice and fairness.