

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.

This BBC animation is a great introduction to the big idea:

* [What's the big idea—truth](#)

Watch the story of [Tiddler](#) with TinyTs interactive storytelling—a little fish who told tall tales! Are stories the same as lies? Is imagination true? **Have a go** at retelling the story, or make up some of your own tall tales!

Perhaps you could make a Tiddler puppet or use your cuddly toys to help you.

Then, have an underwater yoga party with [cosmic kids](#)!

Older children could explore the idea of '[fake news](#)' and bias in the media.

Key questions to think about today:

What does 'truth' mean? Is truth always true for everyone, or are there different 'truths'? Why should we tell the truth? Why is the truth important? What happens to society if the leaders don't tell the truth?

Can we always believe our eyes? Should we believe everything we read?

Are dreams true? What about emotions?

#TRUTH

There's no such thing as truth!

Watch [this video](#) of the story of Pinocchio. If Pinocchio tells a lie his nose will grow. Get two sheets of paper with 'WILL GROW' and 'WON'T GROW' on them and place them at opposite ends of your table/room.

If Pinocchio says each of these will his nose grow or not?

'I am made of wood' 'I am a real boy'
 'I am a puppet'
'I have no mind' 'I am a boy'
'I have a heart' 'I have no soul'

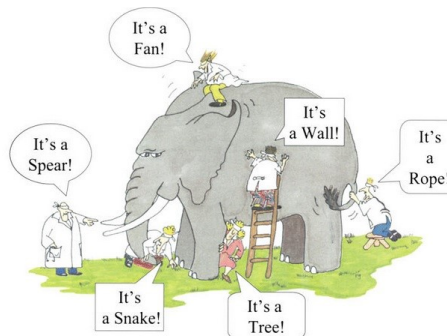
Can you have a mind without a brain? Can an object have a gender?

Final question—what would happen if Pinocchio said, 'My nose will now grow'?

This is a famous parable for 'truth' - if all of these people were blindfolded and given a section of the elephant to feel, but couldn't see the whole thing, what would they think they were feeling?

This is used as a picture for 'truth' - we all see only a small section of what is actually 'true' and so our versions of 'truth' are different. If we could only see the whole picture, we would see that all the views of 'truth' are just part of one thing.

Have a go with a feely bag or box—ask a parent/older child to hide an object a box or bag. Then, without looking, just touch a small part of it and try to feel what it is.



Taking it deeper—for an in-depth discussion of the philosophy of truth, check out this [video](#) (more suitable for older children and parents.)

If I believe that my dreams are real while I am experiencing them then how can I tell that what I am now experiencing is really real and not just a dream? The philosophers Descartes and Chuang Tzu both explored this idea in their writings.

Who or what would you love to be in your best dream ever? Chuang Tzu dreamed he was a butterfly—draw or paint what you would be!