## 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 anroying 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?—change

Watch the story of <u>Tadpole's Promise</u>. A story with an unexpected ending! What happens when the tadpole and the caterpillar grow up?

- Did the tadpole break his promise?
- Did the tadpole change?
- Is it the tadpole's fault that he changed?
- Should the caterpillar forgive the tadpole?
- When you are 12, will you change? What about when you are 22? Or 42? Or 92?
- If you will change in the future, will you still be the same person?

You could learn about <u>life</u> <u>cycles</u> today. Can you think of other animals that have babies that look very different to their parents?

Many of you are about to go into a new class—why not write a postcard to your new teacher to say hello? Key questions to think about today:

What changes do you see in the world around you? If the cells in your body are constantly renewing and growing, are you still the same person you were when you were a baby?

Is change good or bad?

Is change sometimes necessary?

## Why does everything

change?

Enjoy this song from the Disney film <u>Pocohontas</u>. At the beginning, there is a line which says, 'you can't step in the same river twice'. This means that in a real river, every time you step into it you will be touching different water. It also has a deeper meaning, that life is always moving and changing. Even if a situation seems the same as one you have been in before, nothing is ever exactly the same twice.

What would it be like if everyday was the same? What would it be like if everyday you woke up and *everything* was different? How much needs to be familiar in your life for you to be comfortable? Watch this interesting <u>Time</u> <u>lapse</u> video of a boy growing up from a baby to a teenager. Which parts of us change as we grow? Which parts stay the same? You could have a look back at photos of yourself and other family members as a baby. Who has changed the most? Then you could draw a picture of how you think you'll look when you're old. What will stay the same?



Peter Pan is the story of a boy who never grew up. What would life be like if people didn't grow up? If you could choose to stop growing older, would you?

This is the beginning of the first chapter of the book. Can you remember when you first realised that you must grow up?

All Children, except one, grow up. They soon know that they will grow up, and the way Wendy knew was this. One day when she was two years old she was playing in a garden, and she plucked another flower and ran with it to her mother. I suppose she must have looked rather delightful, for Mrs Darling put her hand to her heart and cried, "Oh, why can't you remain like this for ever!" This was all that passed between them on the subject, but henceforth Wendy knew that she must grow up. You always know after you're two. Two is the beginning of the end.

What about when things *need* to change? Older children could investigate the changing attitudes of society to <u>women</u>, or you could think, about <u>racism</u> or other forms of discrimination.

How do these huge changes come about in society? Is big change ever possible without struggle?