



Thinking Focus: **Philosophy**

Thinking about the most basic questions of life such as, why are we here?

Curriculum Focus

Philosophers: self-absorbed navel gazers or thinkers who help push the human race forwards? Whatever your opinion, the skills and products of philosophical thinking provide multiple opportunities for pupils to understand themselves, other people, the world and their place in it. If we don't give our pupils at least a basic understanding of the depths of philosophical thinking, we leave them unprepared and vulnerable to the power of those who have.

Happiness is the highest good.

Aristotle



Man is condemned to be free.

Jean-Paul Sartre



Knowledge, Skills & Values

Pupils will learn facts about famous philosophers, find out key questions which philosophy tackles and they will have the chance to develop their own philosophical thinking. Use the starting points below and the three levels of task opposite to design learning that is meaningful and appropriate for the abilities and potential of the age group that you are teaching.

Starting Points

Text

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/philosophy/399564>

Read the definition of Philosophy. Reduce it to two sentences. Reduce those two sentences to one sentence. Reduce that to five words.

Data

What is a fact?

Map

https://www.philosophybasics.com/general_map.html

Highlight all the philosophers on this map. Find three facts about one of them.

1. Basic Questions/Tasks

What is Philosophy?

List ten philosophical questions such as 'What is truth?'

Choose one male and one female philosopher.

Research each and summarise the kind of thinking that they did.

Make a model or a piece of art or a piece of music that means 'Philosophy'

2. Deeper Questions/Tasks

Choose two philosophers who disagreed with each other. Summarise why they disagreed and then create an idea that combines both of theirs.

What is the most difficult question to answer?

Make a small book called, 'My Little Book of Big Thinking'. Fill it in any way that you choose so long as the content matches the title.

3. Long-term Questions/Tasks

Start a Philosophy Club and design a way to report to other people what you think about and what you find out.

Choose a philosopher of the week for ten weeks. Record their image, three facts about their life and one big thought that they had.

One cannot step twice in the same river.

Heraclitus



Books

Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction
by Edward Craig

The If Machine:
Philosophical Enquiry in
the Classroom
by Peter Worley

Starting Points

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faQBrAQ8714>

Watch this video about The Infinite Hotel. What is 'infinity'?

Act

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Philosophy>

Pick one question from the list. Ask five people. Select the best answer. Justify.

Extend

Philosophy is the love of wisdom and the search for truth and meaning.

Design 3 activities to teach a younger student how to think philosophically.