Background Information (historical)

What Are Human Rights?

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

Malala Yousafzai: 12 July 1997 to current day
Malala Yousafzai defied the Taliban in Pakistan and demanded that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012 but survived. In 2014, she became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Emmeline Pankhurst: 15 July 1858 – 14 June 1928
She was an English political activist. She is best remembered for organizing the UK suffragette movement and helping women win the right to vote. The suffragettes were a movement that campaigned for equal opportunities for women.

Rosa Parks: February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005
She was an American activist in the civil rights movement best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott. Its success launched nationwide efforts to end racial segregation of public facilities.

Martin Luther King: January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968
Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Christian minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968.

Key events in human rights timeline:

539BC - The Cyrus Cylinder was created. Cyrus (the first King of Ancient Persia) freed the slaves, declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion, and established racial equality.

1215 - The Magna Carta was signed by King John of England and made him subject to the law. The Magna Carta was a crucial turning point in the struggle to establish freedom.

1688 - Petition of Rights was signed by Charles I. It set out the rights of the people.

1776 (July 4th) - United States Declaration of Independence. It proclaimed the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

1791 - Bill of Rights introduced

1945 - The first United Nations Conference

1948 - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This was the first document listing the 30 rights to which everyone is entitled.


In this unit, the children will:
- Investigate and interpret the past
- Build an overview of world history
- Understand chronology
- Communicate historically

Key Vocabulary:
- Activist - a person who campaigns to bring about political or social change.
- Boycott - To refuse to do something.
- Civilization - A group of people with common language, culture, laws, tradition and history.
- Declaration - A formal announcement
- Democracy - A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws.
- Diversity - differences; people may be different in many ways, including race or ethnicity, age, disabilities, language, culture, appearance, or religion.
- Equality - The state of being equal, especially in status, rights, or opportunities.
- Justice - Fair treatment of everyone.
- Monarchy - A country with a King or Queen.
- Peasantry - People who are extremely poor who have a lower social class.
- Period - A length of time.
- Reign - This is a period of time that the monarch rules for.
- Social class - groups of people defined by your wealth, job or family title.
- Suffragette - a woman seeking the right to vote through organised protest.

How did these inspirational people shape the modern world?
Due to the heroic actions of these activists and leaders and their drive for change, the laws, beliefs and rights of humans today are rooted in equality and diversity.

The UNCRC introduced the rights of a child.
Background Information - (geographical)
The United Nations (UN) is an organization between countries established on 24 October 1945 to promote international cooperation. It was founded following World War II to prevent another conflict. When it was founded, the UN had 51 Member States; there are now 193. Most nations are members of the UN and come together to make decisions about global issues.
The goals of the United Nations are: to keep world peace; to help countries get along; to improve living conditions for people all over the world and to make the world a better place.

Key Vocabulary:
- Equator - The imaginary line that divides the Earth into the northern and southern hemisphere.
- Hemisphere - The Earth is divided into the northern and southern hemispheres (half of a sphere).
- Human geography - The manmade features of a place/location.
- Greenwich Meridian - An invisible line in Greenwich that is used to calculate time zones.
- Physical geography - The natural features of a place/location.
- Protectorate - A state that is controlled and protected by another.
- Region - An area within a country.
- Settlement - A place where people live and establish a community.
- Trade - The action of buying and selling goods.
- Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn - These are lines that run parallel to the equator.
- Vegetation - Plants that are found in a particular area or habitat.

Geographical Skills and concepts:
- Investigate places
  This concept involves understanding the geographical location of places and their physical and human features.
- Investigate patterns
  This concept involves understanding the relationships between the physical features of places and the human activity within them, and the appreciation of how the world's natural resources are used and transported.
- Communicate geographically

Where did these inspirational people live in the world?
Emmeline Pankhurst: She was born in Manchester and died in London.
Rosa Parks: She lived in Alabama, a state in America.
Martin Luther King: He was born in Georgia, United States and died in Tennessee, United States.
Malala Yousafzai: She was born in Pakistan but now lives in the UK.

Amnesty International:
Amnesty International is a global movement of over seven million people. Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation. They work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

The UN in 1945. In light blue, the founding members. In dark blue, protectorates and territories of the founding members.

Those Human Rights Scores Indicate the degree to which governments protect and respect human rights. The values range from around -3.0 to around 5.0 (the higher the better).