# **Disposition: Being Imaginative and Exploratory**

## **Lesson:** Two

### Question/LO: How do Humanists find out about and explore the world?

| **Dimension of learning** | **Activities** | **Resources** |
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| Learning about religious traditions and non-religious world-views | *Based on ‘Understanding Humanism’ source:*  Explain that many humanists believe that we should be prepared to question our beliefs. We have a responsibility to ask questions, think clearly and carefully (this is called using reason), and look at the evidence. That way, we give our beliefs the best chance of being true.  Linking back to the scenarios in last lesson, remind pupils about what they believed initially was likely to have taken place in each scenario. It was important for them to check out what they thought to see if there may be other explanations.  Humanists believe the world is a natural place. There is no scientific evidence for the existence of supernatural beings (such as ghosts or spirits), supernatural powers (such as mind-reading or seeing into the future), or supernatural forces (such as miracles). Humanists think we should try to explain how the world works without relying on anything supernatural. When we have questions about what happens around us and why, they believe we should look for natural explanations.  Science provides a way of looking for evidence and testing our beliefs about the world. If a claim has been well tested by science, then humanists will often think there is a good reason to believe it. If there isn’t any scientific evidence, then they believe we should be cautious. We can’t always carry out a scientific experiment ourselves, but it is important that an experiment can be done. For example, if someone told us that plants grow because they are built by tiny invisible green men, we should ask them how we could test that claim. If they can’t give us a way to test it, then we would have a good reason to doubt what they say.  Discuss with pupils – how would we test this claim?  Thinking of how humanists believe we explore most of the world by testing and thinking about it, ask pupils to think of two test claims: one that can be tested by science and one that cannot.  Scientists sometimes make mistakes, but good scientists do not always rely on the results of others but check the results so that mistakes can be found and corrected. Scientists keep asking questions, and the community of scientists does not feel that all the answers to people’s questions have been definitely solved. This process and this constant search for new knowledge has proved incredibly effective at helping human beings make progress in our understanding of the world.  Many humanists would explain the start of the world by the scientific theory of the Big Bang. Watch the video about the Big Bang.  Question: How do you think that world came into being? Jim Al-Khalili is a scientist and says this about beauty and the world:  ‘Learning about the nature of space and time or the structure of atoms fills me with awe and wonder; it makes me want to learn more. I see a beauty in the laws of nature that can be explained by science.’  Ask pupils how they respond to what they consider to be beautiful in the world around them. | <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Understanding-the-world-11.pdf>  Big Bang Video:  <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtDTWYBTAGQ> |
| Learning from faith and non-religious world-views | Discuss: Can I see purpose in the created world?  What do you think about the world? How do you think it is amazing? | n/a |