

Human Rights Day Activities

To observe Human Rights Day with learners in or outside the classroom, ask students to consider the importance of human rights as they fill out the following activity pages.

Human Rights Day centers on universal rights affirmed by the United Nations, and many leaders, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., have worked to advance these same principles within their own communities.

Ask students to use Britannica resources to research human rights and why they are celebrated globally on December 10.



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Vocabulary Terms

**human rights**

rights (such as freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture, and execution) regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons

civil rights

rights that citizens are guaranteed by their government through legislation or other government action to ensure equal opportunities (as for employment, education, housing, or voting) and equal protection under the law regardless of personal characteristics such as race, religion, or sex

United Nations

political organization established in 1945

citizenship

the status of being a citizen; membership in a community; the quality of an individual's response to membership in a community

equality

the quality or state of being equal

*Definitions provided by Merriam-Webster's Dictionary.



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Human Rights Research

Name:

Date:

Instructions: Reflect on your research and what you know about human rights. Read the following prompts and write an example of each in the spaces.

A human right

A right that all children
should have

Rights that adults have and
children do not

Books around rights

A human right that is
respected by most

Books about human rights

A human right that may not
be respected in your society

A country where people are
denied their rights

An organization that fights
for human rights

Something that should be a
human right but isn't

A celebrity that speaks about
human rights

A way to promote human
rights



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Formal Letter Writing Template



Name:

Date:

Instructions: Use this template to write a letter to your principal or someone in your community.

Your address

Date

Dear Mr./Mrs./Mx.,

Introduce why you are writing.

Mention two or three human rights you think need to be addressed in your school and why.



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Wants vs. Needs Activity



Name:

Date:

Instructions: Make a list of what you want in life and what you need so that you can distinguish the difference in importance.

What do you WANT?	What do you NEED?

Which is more important: wants or needs? Why?



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