

1. Human Rights

This week's lesson focuses on the subject of human rights, and in particular a document that is widely considered one of the most significant international political achievements of the twentieth century: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The United Nations adopted the UDHR on 10th December 1948, and every year it marks the anniversary of the event by promoting a worldwide 'Human Rights Day'.

Level

Intermediate and above

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about the subject of human rights, and ask them which rights they consider the most important.
2. Give your students at least ten minutes to read through Worksheet A, and encourage them to look up any new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to answer questions about it, but they shouldn't write anything down at this stage.
3. Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a copy of Worksheet B. Tell them that by writing the missing words in the grid they can find one of the other rights contained in the UDHR.

Note: To make the exercise slightly easier you could provide your students with a few of the letters from the missing words. Alternatively, to make it more difficult, you could ask them to try to fill in the answers without referring back to Worksheet A.

4. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. respect 2. exists 3. adopted 4. granted 5. torture 6. abuses 7. same 8. signed
9. promote 10. western

If the questions have all been answered as below, *expression* should read from top to bottom. If necessary, explain what freedom of expression means.

5. Keeping the students in their pairs, give each pair a copy of Worksheet C, which contains another short text on the subject of human rights. There are sixteen words in bold, most of which have been mixed up and are in the wrong positions. Encourage the students to read the text through individually before attempting the exercise, then tell them to work together in order to put the words back in the right positions where necessary. Allow at least five minutes for this exercise.

8. Check answers in open class.

Answers

1. with 2. in 3. document 4. basis 5. treaties 6. fundamental 7. committed 8. to
9. free 10. slavery 11. governments 12. respected 13. abuses 14. about 15. worst
16. take

9. For some good ideas for further discussion of the topic, see the *Newsround* website mentioned below.

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/features/ihavearightto/four_b/full_text.shtml#welve

From the website of the BBC World Service, the entire text of the UDHR plus links to a huge amount of material including 'Background', a useful 'Simplified Text' giving the essential meaning of each of the declaration's thirty articles, and a UN page containing the UDHR in 300 languages.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_4500000/newsid_4506700/4506782.stm

From BBC *Newsround*, a page on the subject of human rights aimed at teachers of children and teenagers, giving interesting suggestions for the content of a lesson on the subject.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_1600000/newsid_1607000/1607018.stm

Again from BBC *Newsround*, a set of short texts on the subject of asylum seekers fleeing from human rights abuses. Aimed at children and younger teenagers in the UK. Accessible to intermediate students.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights

Wikipedia entry for the UDHR. Upper intermediate and above.