

Humanism

Holy book: Humanists do not follow a holy book.

Name of people: Humanists

The first humanist:
Francesco Petrarca

Place of worship: Humanists do not have a place of worship.



A Humanism leader – Charles Bradlaugh

- know significant events in “The story of Charles Bradlaugh – the boy who left home” including: (1) Charles was brought up as a Christian; (2) he left school aged 12 and worked as an errand boy and then as a clerk; (3) aged 15 Charles was invited to be a Sunday School teacher; (4) aged 16 Charles decided he should be a confirmed in the Church of England and to prepare himself he studied the Gospels and Church teaching; (5) in the Gospels he noticed inconsistencies which puzzled him; (6) he wrote to his church minister asking for advice; (7) the minister didn’t advise Charles but wrote to his father telling him he was suspending his son for 3 months as a Sunday School teacher and criticised Charles for lack of faith; (8) when his 3 month suspension ended Charles was told to change his opinions or lose his work as a Sunday School teacher and his job as a clerk; (9) Charles told his father he couldn’t uphold Christianity anymore and he couldn’t abandon his doubts about God and Christianity; (10) aged 16 Charles left home with no money and no job
- know that “moral integrity” is a characteristic of a person who thinks or acts according to... what they honestly believe is right or true even though they may be worse off because of it.

- know significant events in “The story of Charles Bradlaugh – the Parliamentary Struggle” including: (1) Bradlaugh was always open about being an atheist; (2) in 1880 Bradlaugh was elected as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Northampton; (3) before an MP could take their seat in parliament they had to “swear an oath of loyalty” to the king or queen; (4) Quakers and Jews were given permission not to swear a religious oath but instead they could “affirm loyalty” to the king or queen; (5) Bradlaugh asked permission to “affirm loyalty”.. rather than swear a religious oath; (6) parliament decided that Bradlaugh was not eligible to “affirm loyalty” but parliament also decided he could not “swear an oath of loyalty” which meant that Bradlaugh could not take his seat in parliament; (7) a by-election was held in Northampton in 1881 and Bradlaugh won the election but he was again prevented from taking his seat in parliament; (8) between 1882 and 1885 three more elections were held to decide who should be the MP for Northampton and Bradlaugh won all of them; (9) In 1886 Bradlaugh was permitted to swear the oath of loyalty and take his seat as an MP.

- know significant information about the life of Charles Bradlaugh including: (1) Bradlaugh was one of the best public speakers in the country; (2) over a period of 35 years he travelled to many different parts of the country and delivered over a thousand speeches; (3) his speeches were often attended by large numbers of people many of whom paid very little to hear him speak and many listened for free.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
freethinker	A freethinker was the word commonly used in the 18th and 19th century to refer to a person who formed their own opinions and beliefs especially about religion and moral values and did not accept many of the religious views that were widely believed or taught at the time.
sceptic	a person who is not easily convinced, or has a questioning attitude and so is likely to have doubts or reservations.
‘No Hindu, No Muslim’	Looking beyond labels and recognising that all people, first and foremost, belong to the one common category which is that we are all human beings.

A Christian leader – Jesus in comparison to Charles Bradlaugh

- After Jesus was baptised, he chose his disciples and began sharing news of God's love to people in Galilee, Judea, Samaria and Perea. These areas are a part of Israel and close to Egypt.
- During three eventful years, Jesus spoke to large crowds in the open air, preached God's word in the synagogues, talked to people in their homes and during walks, and stood up to religious leaders at the temple in Jerusalem.
- The Bible records at least 37 miracles of Jesus; from curing a man with leprosy, to walking on water, to feeding 5000 people, to healing a woman who had been crippled for years.
- Parables, which Christians believe are an earthly story with a heavenly meaning, shows that Jesus must have been an amazing teacher, because people turned out in their thousands to hear him.
- Some of his parables included: The Lost Sheep, the Wise and Foolish Builders, the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan.
- While Jesus' miracles displayed the power of God and proved Jesus was His Son, the parables were designed to encourage people to think about their own relationship with God.
- Jesus was incredibly influential with keeping Christians close to God and close to their religion.

A Buddhist leader – Siddhartha Guatama in comparison to Charles Bradlaugh

- Prince Siddhartha was twenty-nine years old when his life changed. In carriage rides outside his palaces, he first saw a sick person, then an old man, then a corpse. This shook him to the core of his being; he realized that his privileged status would not protect him from sickness, old age, and death. When he saw a spiritual seeker, the urge to seek peace of mind arose in him. The prince renounced his worldly life and began a spiritual quest.
- He spent the rest of his life teaching people how to realize enlightenment for themselves. He gave his first sermon in modern-day Sarnath, near Benares, and then walked from village to village, attracting disciples along the way.

A Muslim leader – Prophet Muhammad in comparison to Charles Bradlaugh

- Muhammad was trusted by people – they called him Al-Amin (the one you can trust). He was also known as 'The Friend' and 'The Helper'.
- He faced the harsh realities of life early on when he became an orphan following the deaths of his father before his birth and his mother when he was only six.
- Despite these adversities, Muhammad grew to become a well-respected and prosperous merchant. In his forties, he experienced religious visions and revelations that would later serve as the foundation of the Quran, Islam's holy scripture.
- His teachings stress the importance of peace, equality, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their social standing or origin.
- He delivered God's message captured in the Holy Quran.
- Muslims use Prophet Muhammad's sayings, deeds, daily routines, religious responsibilities, etiquette, and ethics as a blueprint guiding them to lead a virtuous life like Prophet Muhammad's.
- Muhammad's strategic leadership and the unwavering faith of his followers resulted in a remarkable victory in the Battle of Badr. This triumph not only established the Muslims as a powerful force but also boosted the morale of the Islamic community.

A Sikh leader – Guru Nanak in comparison to Charles Bradlaugh

- In his early twenties, Nanak moved to Sultanpur, an important town on the main road between Lahore and Delhi, where he worked as a clerk in the Lodi administration. When he was about thirty years old, he had an experience that he described as a revelation—a direct encounter with God that shaped the rest of his life.
- One day Nanak went to bathe in a river, accompanied by a friend. Nanak mysteriously disappeared, and his frantic friend, after several attempts to rescue him, returned to Sultanpur with the dreadful news and the clothes Nanak had left on the bank. Three days later, however, Nanak reappeared. He emerged from the water and his first words were: "There is neither Hindu nor Muslim." He went on to articulate that God was neither Hindu nor Muslim and so he, Nanak, would choose to follow God's path.

A Jewish leader – Moses

- Moses is a central figure in **Judaism**. He was the prophet who led the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt. He also helped them form a special relationship with God. Moses is important to **Christianity** and **Islam** too because of his role in communicating God's laws.
- Over a thousand years after Abraham, the Jews were living as slaves in Egypt. Their leader was a prophet called Moses.
- Moses led the Jews out of slavery in Egypt and led them to the Holy Land that God had promised them.
- The escape of the Jews from Egypt is remembered by Jews every year in the festival of Passover.

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

Did the leaders make the world a kinder, fairer, healthier, and wiser place?

"Religions need leaders to teach the principles and rulings" Do you agree?

In what ways are the leaders of faith different from one another?

"Without leaders of faith, people would have a variety of interpretations." To what extent, do you agree?