

## Lesson: Human Rights Day

December 10

### Global Themes

- Social Justice

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about Human Rights Day and the rights of the child highlighted by this UN Day (all UNCRC Articles).

### Background Information for Teachers

Human Rights Day

[ohchr.org](http://ohchr.org)

### Grades

4 – 8 (review material for suitability for grades 4-6)

### Materials

Book entitled *Every Human Has Rights* by National Geographic  
Cameras (1 per group of four students)

United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (simplified version  
[youthforhumanrights.org](http://youthforhumanrights.org))

- Read the book entitled, *Every Human Has Rights* by National Geographic. Choose one or two pages to focus on, asking the students for their responses to the visual images or to the poems.
- Read the excerpt from the foreword (particularly Nelson Mandela's words). Ask the students what it means that "we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free?" Ask what the students can do to bring about to change so that everyone can truly experience freedom.
- Divide the class into groups. Have each group select a right from the UNDHR.
- Have groups create a photo collection that represents the right.
- Groups prepare their photos to be shared with their class or school. Options for sharing could include a power point, photo gallery, school newsletter, on school televisions as Public Service Announcements.

### Discussion

What rights were you unaware of when you read the Universal Declaration? Did any rights surprise you? Why is it important that all humans have equal rights that cannot be taken away, prioritized or separated from one another?

### **Extensions**

Have the students write a poem to illustrate the right that corresponds with their photo. Ask students to find an article in the newspaper that features a current event about human rights. Ask students to prepare a mini-presentation and share their article with the class.

Search UNICEF sites to see how children around the world are using photography through the EYE SEE project to get their stories told. Here's one web link to get you started:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkD\\_VDhP6cQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkD_VDhP6cQ)

### **Additional Resources**

UN Cyber School bus

[cyberschoolbus.un.org](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org)

Human Rights Education

[humanrightseducation.info](http://humanrightseducation.info)

Play it Fair Toolkit

[equitas.org](http://equitas.org)

United for Human Rights

[Humanrights.com](http://Humanrights.com)

The story of Human Rights Video at [humanrights.com/#/what-are-human-rights](http://humanrights.com/#/what-are-human-rights).

Free downloadable teachers' kit available

Human Rights posters can be ordered by emailing [rights-droits@pch.gc.ca](mailto:rights-droits@pch.gc.ca). Free for classrooms.