



MAY

Open-minded

Definition:

Valuing and being willing to learn about people and opinions that differ from what you are used to.

Why is it important?

There is an incredible variety of cultures, beliefs, and practices around the world.

Being open-minded prevents these differences creating conflicts. Instead, it allows us to appreciate differences as a beautiful and fascinating part of life.

Class activity - Identify and explore different points of view:

In every society certain beliefs and practices are seen as 'normal', these are called 'mainstream' beliefs and practices. Unfortunately, beliefs and practices that are less common are often 'marginalised', which means they are treated as if they were less important. In different cultures

and communities, different beliefs and practices are seen as 'mainstream' and 'marginalised'. For example, in the UK most of the population celebrate the Christian holiday Christmas in some way, so this is a 'mainstream' practice in the UK. Islamic beliefs and practices are not celebrated by most of the UK's population (4.4% of people in the UK identified as Muslim in the 2011 Census), and these practices are treated as less important than Christmas in UK culture. However, in Algeria where most of the population identify as Muslim, Islamic beliefs and practices are 'mainstream', and Christmas is treated as less important than Islamic holidays in Algerian culture. Try to identify the mainstream beliefs and practices among your family and friends in relation to (1) religion, (2) what you should or should not eat, (3) popular hobbies.

- Do your beliefs and practices match the mainstream beliefs and practices in your community?
- How do you think the beliefs and practices around you have influenced your own beliefs and practices?
- How would it feel to hold beliefs and practices that are marginalised in the community you live in?

Make a change:

Learning about beliefs and practices that are not 'mainstream' in your community is an important part of respecting and valuing beliefs and practices different from your own. Think of one **personal** action you could take, one action your **local** community could take, and one action that the **global** community could take, to celebrate and value different beliefs and practices.