



PURPOSE

To distinguish humans from other living beings with their power to think.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

1. Recognize the power **to think** as one only we humans have.
2. Apply their power to think to grow in excellence.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES

- **Kid Inventors** stories
(<http://www.therichest.com/business/technology/top-10-inventions-by-kids/>)
- **I Invent** worksheet (see Materials)
- Supplementary materials:
 - **Great Innovators: “Thomas Edison and the Light Bulb,” StoryBots** video
 - (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1IKwZTzIY>)

VOCABULARY

- **to think:** the human ability to know and connect ideas about us and the world

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Review the previous lesson. Ask the following questions:

- Can we control the emotion we feel? [no]
- Can we control what we do with our emotion? [yes]
- Give me one way to show your anger in an excellent way!

In the last lesson, we learned further about who we are as human persons. We learned that, in addition to having the power to use our senses, with which we learn about the world, we also have the power to feel emotions. Our emotions are automatic responses in our body to the world. They help us to know what is good or bad for us.

Draw the following chart on the board (with empty spaces), then ask students to help fill in the corresponding powers per each living being.

	plants	animals	humans
eat	X	X	X
grow	X	X	X
reproduce	X	X	X
move from place to place on their own		X	X
use the senses		X	X
feel emotions		X	X
think			X
choose			X

Explain: We share the powers to eat, grow, and reproduce with plants and animals. With these powers, we live and survive. We share the the power to move from place to place on our own, to use our senses, and to feel emotions with animals. With these powers, we learn about the world, relate to it, react to it.

We humans also have two special powers that no other living beings have, and we will start to learn about these powers today.

Step 2: Practice the power to think.

Ask:

- Can animals make desserts, such as ice cream sundaes?
- Can roses do things that make their lives more interesting or entertaining?

Explain: One of the special powers that only humans have is the power **to think**. This is a power that we do not share with animals or plants. Animals and plants cannot think about desserts and the necessary ingredients, nor can they write books or songs to explain their existence.

Write on the board:

- **to think:** the human ability to know and connect ideas about us and the world

Explain: Our power to think means that we do not only know individual, specific details about the world, as we learn with our senses. Our sight picks up specific colors; our hearing picks up specific sounds. Our power to think gives us the ability to think about all of these things in our mind as general ideas! No other living being has this power!

Step 3: Practice connecting ideas about ourselves.

Write today's date on the board. Ask students to count the number of months between today and their next birthday.

Explain: This is one example of the way that we can use our power to think to know and to connect ideas about ourselves, the past, the present, and the future. Because we have this power, we can work to prepare ourselves for an excellent future, and we can remake our plans when things don't unfold the way that we had wanted them to.

Tell some *Kid Inventors* stories, to give students examples of three inventions that were the ideas of children, then ask: Why is it important for humans to think about and create different inventions? How can we use ideas to respect other people's human dignity?

For the second question, break students into pairs to discuss, then share-out as a class. Explain: Using our power to think for the good of other people is one of the most excellent ways we can use it. One way, throughout history, that people have contributed to the good of others is by inventing objects and technology that serve their needs.

Step 4: Summarize: In this lesson, we have learned about the first of two special human powers—the power to think, which lets us know and connect ideas about ourselves and all of reality. This power lets us go beyond the specific details we know with our senses and start to see how everything about us and reality fits together, through the many ideas that we come to know and hold in our minds. In the next lesson, we will learn about the second special human power.

FOLLOW-UP & HOMEWORK

Ask students to complete the *I Invent* worksheet.

SUPPLEMENTS

Supplement 1: Practice understanding the power of ideas. Show students the *Great Innovators: "Thomas Edison and the Light Bulb," StoryBots* video.

Discussion questions:

- What role did Thomas Edison's power to think play in his inventing?
- Why is it important for humans to be able to think of and create different inventions?

Break students into pairs to discuss, then come back to share-out as a class.

Humans: Power to Think

Human Dignity Curriculum – Grade 2 | Lesson 4A

Explain: Using our power to think for the good of other people is one of the most excellent ways that we can use it. One way that people over human history have contributed to the good of others is by inventing objects and technology that serves their needs.



Human
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I INVENT

Name: _____

Directions: If you could invent anything in the world, what would you invent? Draw it here.