

Teacher's Notes

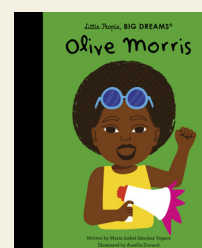
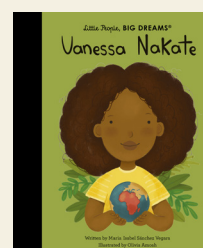
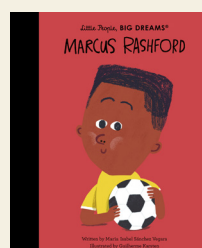
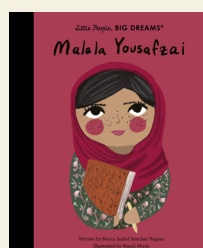
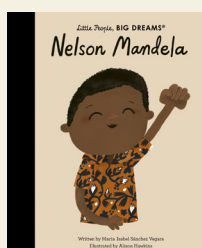
Amazing Activists - Teacher's Notes

Depending on the age of the children, the following lessons can take place over more sessions than are outlined in the notes. The lessons are pitched at Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2 but can be adapted across the primary curriculum to suit the needs and ages of the children in their school.

Learning in this area is not designed to be specifically taught, but to create flexible cross-curricular opportunities.

By using these books and following the suggested activities, children will begin to understand and be able to:

- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.
- Describe the importance for humans of exercise and eating the right amounts of different types of food.
- Interpret and construct simple pictograms, tally charts, block diagrams and simple tables
- Ask and answer simple questions by counting the number of objects in each category and sorting the categories by quantity.
- Become increasingly familiar with and retelling a wider range of stories.
- Write about real events, narratives and non-narrative material.
- Talk about the work of a range of artists, craft makers and designers, describing the differences and similarities between different practices.



Little People, BIG DREAMS



Session 1: Gloria Steinem

Introduce the theme of Amazing Activists. Explain what an activist is and ask the children if they had any experiences of people protesting or doing activism. What are the issues of unfairness in the world that the class feel passionate about? Also what are the issues of unfairness in school?

Discussion and Comprehension

Read the Gloria Steinem story and prompt discussion by asking the following questions, encouraging readers to take turns and give full answers. Offer support by turning to the appropriate pages of the book.

- What did Gloria realise when she started school?
- Why was Gloria's mother extremely sad?
- Why do you think Gloria became a journalist?
- Why do you think Gloria received more than 20,000 letters?
- Gloria married another activist named David. Why do animals need protecting?
- The author says Gloria promotes equality. What do you think equality might mean?

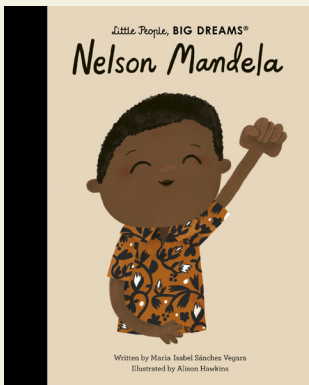
Activities

Gloria celebrated her 80th birthday by visiting elephants in Botswana. Her husband David was an animal activist. Explain that there are African elephants and Asian elephants. African elephants are endangered due to illegal ivory poaching and Asian elephants are at risk due to their habitat being lost. Ask the children to research the dangers elephants face so they know the key facts and information. Working in groups ask them to make protest signs and/or write a short speech.

Reflection

Ask the children to reflect on the reasons why animals in the wild are losing their habitats? Encourage them to consider what they might be able to do to protect elephants?

Little People, BIG DREAMS



Session 2: Nelson Mandela

Discussion and Comprehension

- Do you think Nelson's South African name is a good name for him and why?
- What does apartheid mean?
- Why did Nelson wear a disguise?
- How did Nelson make a difference in South Africa?
- Why was it important that Nelson never gave up on his dream?
- How are both Gloria and Nelson's dreams similar?

Activities

Explain that Nelson Mandela spent 27 years in prison but in that long time he didn't give up on his dream of a country where all people are treated equally. He had patience and he never gave up. Ask the children what they would like patience to learn to do? Maybe they can be inspired by Nelson Mandela's patience. If Nelson can wait 27 years for justice, is there something they dream of doing one day? It could be a goal that they have or something they would like to learn to do but it will be a challenge. Give the children cut out shapes of stars or hot air balloons explaining that you encourage them to aim high. Then ask them to record their future hopes and dreams on the cut outs. Display them and encourage them to never give up and be patient like Nelson Mandela.

Reflection

Explain that the author talks about the activists fighting for justice, but Nelson was peaceful and didn't promote violence. Ask the children to reflect on why violence and fighting is not the best way to bring about peace.

Little People, BIG DREAMS



Session 3: Malala Yousafzai

Discussion and Comprehension

- What did Malala want to prove to everyone?
- What happened when the Taliban took control of her valley?
- Why did Malala feel like she was in prison under Taliban rule?
- How were Malala and her classmates brave?
- How did Malala make a difference to women and girls?
- Just like Gloria, Malala received lots of letters from children from all over the world. How do you think Malala inspired so many people?

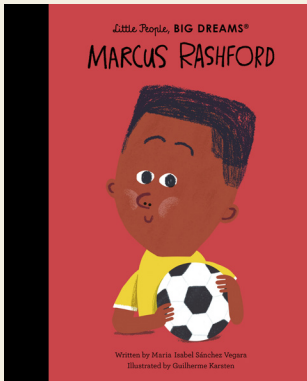
Activities

Explain that Malala likes to help women and girls be educated as nearly 120 million girls are out of education. She started the Malala Fund which is working for a world where every girl can learn and lead. Ask the children to research more about the Malala Fund using her website <https://malala.org>. The class could raise money for the Malala Fund by coming up with their own fundraising idea. Tell them they could do a bake sale or a sponsored run around the school field. The children could create posters with the key information to share around the school to spread awareness about the girls out of education.

Reflection

Talk to the children about even little helps. Even the smallest of donations can make a big difference. If everyone in the school donated 10p how much would that be? If everyone donated 10p, how much would that be? If everyone in the country donated a 10p how much would that be?

Little People, BIG DREAMS



Session 4: Marcus Rashford

Discussion and Comprehension

- Although Marcus grew up poor why did he feel rich?
- How did Marcus' mother manage to feed all her children?
- Why did Marcus feel like he was playing for his friends, family and neighbourhood?
- Why do you think the Queen gave Marcus a medal?
- What did Marcus achieve by writing a letter to the government?
- Compare Marcus to one of the other activists and explain how are they similar to each other.

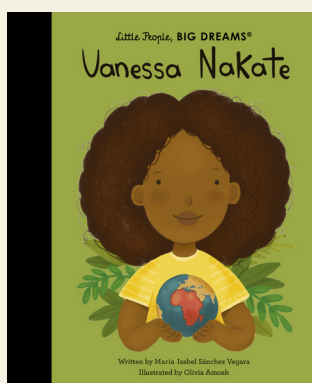
Activities

Explain how Marcus Rashford and his family relied on school meals and food charities to help them when they were children. Discuss the importance of eating healthy food. Ask the children what meals they like. Then ask them which of these would be a healthy meal? Ask what makes a healthy meal. Explain what a balanced diet is and that a healthy meal will include fruit and vegetables, protein and carbohydrates. Talk about the fact that children need calcium for growing healthy bones and ask how this could be included as part of the meal. Then set the task for them to work in pairs to design a healthy meal including all the food groups mentioned. Once designed on paper they could make the food using a range of art materials and a paper plate.

Reflection

Explain that Marcus Rashford got bullied when he missed a penalty in the world cup. But thankfully most people are kind and supported him. Ask the children to think about how they might support people who are being bullied?

Little People, BIG DREAMS



Session 5: Vanessa Nakate

Discussion and Comprehension

- What did Vanessa's parents always encourage her to do?
- How did climate change affect Vanessa in Uganda?
- What did Vanessa do to protest about climate change?
- Why did Vanessa feel alone in New York?
- Can you explain why Vanessa was upset about being removed from the photograph?
- Explain how Vanessa is similar to the other activists you have read about?

Activities

Explain that there are things we can do to combat climate change and that everybody can play their part. Find out what the children already know about pollution, then choose a local issue like car traffic. Ask the children what they can do to reduce car traffic and the pollution cars and other vehicles create. List their ideas. Ask them to first find out how the children in the class travel to school (walk, cycle, car, bus). Display the results as a bar chart or pictogram. Compare the results and discuss how the children could protest and encourage others to walk or catch the bus.

Reflection

Vanessa felt ignored and left out because of where she was from. Tell the pupils that in their class everyone is equal and so must be treated with equal respect. Ask them to reflect on times when they have and have not been treated with equal respect.

Little People, **BIG DREAMS**



Session 6: Olive Morris

Discussion and Comprehension

- Why did Olive's parents move from Jamaica to England?
- Explain why it was unfair that Olive got beaten and sent to prison?
- Why do you think the author calls Olive fearless?
- How did Olive inspire the whole community?
- Which other activist do you think Olive is most like and why?
- Who has been your favourite activist in the book series and why?

Activities

Explain that the person who draws the pictures in a book is called the illustrator. The illustrator is called Aurelia Durand. Take another look at the illustrations in the book. What do the pupils notice? What do they like about the illustrations. Encourage them to notice that the pictures are bold with bright colours. Ask them why this might be? Explain that this reflects the Caribbean culture. Show the children some bright colourful images from Jamaica of clothes and festivals.

Ask each group of children to reread and retell the story of one of the amazing activists. They could act the story out or each person in the group retell different pages of the story and combine it to create a group comic strip.

Reflection

Ask the children to perform the plays or share the comics they have written. Reflect on the amazing activists by comparing and contrasting their achievements.