



Hopeful Heroes

Activity #1

Life today is significantly better than it has been in the past. This is because so many people have worked hard to make the world a better place. For this activity the children can collectively look at history to see some examples of how this progress has taken place. Together with them, you can identify key milestones, key figures and key organisations that have made a big impact on improving our world.

The class can then split into groups (or this task can be done individually) where they will create a winners' cup to award to people they admire for their contribution. These can be famous figures from history, or people who played a part in their own life, closer to home. They will make a list of why this person/organisation is a winner and what problem they helped solve as well as how they did it. They can then present their cup to their audience.

Feel free to find your own hopeful heroes! If you would like some inspiration of where to start, here is a list of some people who the children may wish to learn more about – they can learn about the work that they did and the achievements they made to make the world a better place and make them worthy of the winners cup.

- 1) **Marie Curie**: One of the most famous scientists in our history. She was the first woman to win a Nobel peace prize and has been instrumental in cancer treatment and x-ray machines.
- 2) **Mahatma Gandhi**: Political activist in India who ultimately led India to its freedom from British colonial rule. He has changed the world through being an inspiring leader for civil rights movements, known for his non-violent approach.
- 3) **Maurice Ralph Hilleman**: American microbiologist who specialised in vaccines and developed over 36 vaccines.
- 4) **Martin Luther King**: Civil rights leader
- 5) **Abraham Lincoln**: American president who helped end slavery.
- 6) **Nelson Mandela**: Anti-Apartheid leader
- 7) **Isaac Newton**: English mathematician and scientist who discovered gravity
- 8) **Greta Thunberg**: Climate activist
- 9) **Mother Teresa**: Charity work and lifelong helper
- 10) **Malala Yousafzai**: Pakistani student activist for female education
- 11) **Wright brothers**: American brothers credited for inventing, building, and flying the world's first successful motor-operated airplane
- 12) **JoAnn Hardin Morgan**: the first female engineer at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre
- 13) **Steve Jobs**: Founder of Apple and creator of affordable personal computers
- 14) **Alexander Graham Bell**: Credited for inventing the telephone
- 15) **Thomas Edison**: Credited for inventing the lightbulb
- 16) **Amelia Earhart**: American aviation pioneer and first female aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean
- 17) **Rosa Parks**: American activist in the civil rights and "the mother of the freedom movement".

