



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

- **Identity** worksheet (see Materials)
- **15 Popular Riddles for Kids and Everyone** video
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ffMTn9cJX4>)
- **10 Awesome Science Experiments To Impress Your Friends** video
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ffMTn9cJX4>)
- **Science at Home** worksheet (see Materials)

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:

- When you feel angry, do you feel that forever? Why not? [No, emotions are temporary.]
- When you see a scary movie, is it normal to jump in fright? Why? [Yes, because emotions are automatic.]

Emotions are important because they help animals and humans operate in the world. What's different about humans is our power to choose how we can express our emotions in a way that respects the dignity of everybody involved, and we will look at this more in the next lesson. Last time, we learned about the way in which we can channel our imagination, our memory, and our emotions into the creation of art and culture.

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 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: Teach the power to think.

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.

Write on the board:

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

Ask students to complete the **Identity** worksheet as a way of articulating thought concepts about their own selves. Take volunteer answers for some of the questions with the entire class.

Explain: We just collected certain details about who we are, and connected it to the idea that these details form part of our identity as human beings. That’s exactly how the power to think works. 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 4: Practice the power to think.

Show students the **15 Popular Riddles for Kids and Everyone** video, and work through the riddles with them. Then, once the riddles are completed, show the **10 Awesome Science Experiments To Impress Your Friends** video.

Ask:

- What role did your power to think play in solving riddles?
- How does thinking influence the words we use in communicating with other people?
- 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.

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 the creation of different art with language, as with novels, poems, and fun riddles, as well as helped explore the way the world functions by means of science.

Step 5: 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 by allowing us 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.

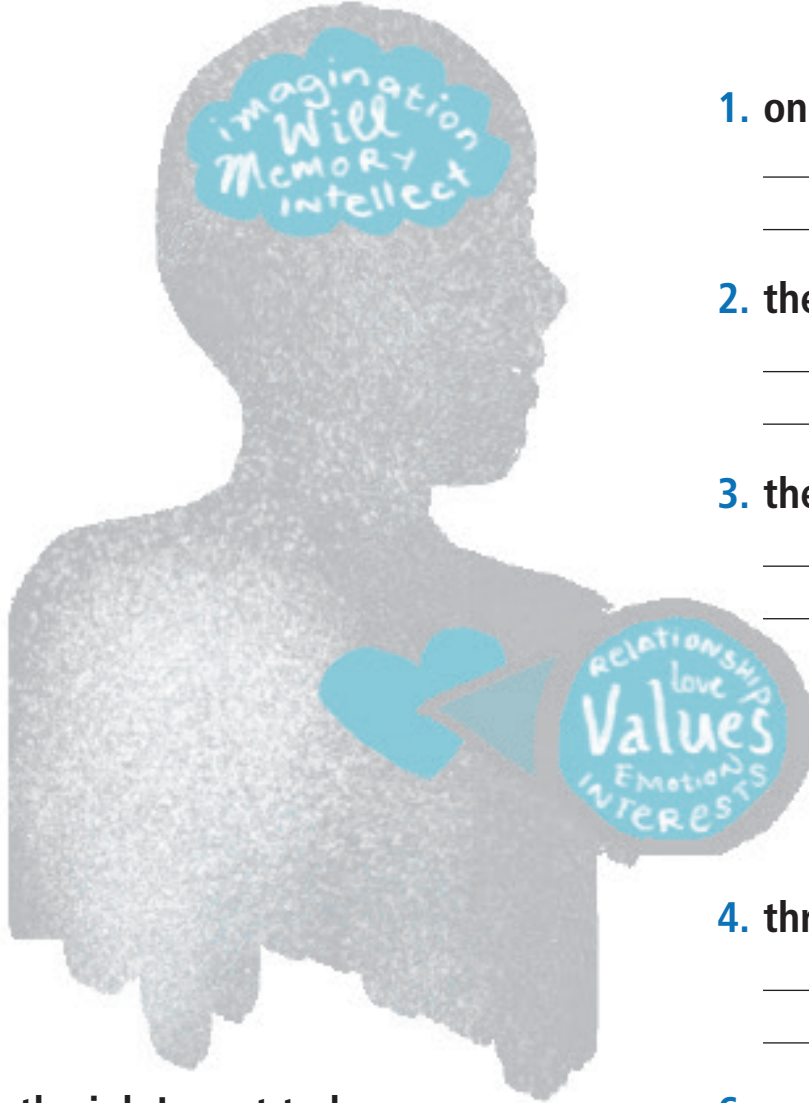
FOLLOW-UP & HOMEWORK

Ask students to complete the **Science at Home** worksheet.



IDENTITY

Directions: List an answer for each prompt below.



1. one person I love:

2. the place I was born:

3. the language(s) I speak:

4. three words that describe me:

5. the job I want to have:

6. something I consider beautiful:

7. an excellent choice I've made:

8. something that is hard for me to do:

9. one thing I like about school:

10. someone who is my hero:

SCIENCE AT HOME

Name: _____

Directions: Look for an item that falls into each category at home, draw it, and explain what it's used for.

Pulley: a wheel that holds a line, used to raise heavy objects.

Lever: a rigid bar used to lift a heavy object.

Example: garage door.

Example: seesaw.

Wedge: a sloping surface.

Wheel & axle: a bar which rotates along with a pair of wheels.

Example: a knife.

Example: office chair.
