



The
Leprosy
Mission



Teaching resources:
Key Stage 2



Having shared the Bela book with your class, here are some activities that you could use in your Key Stage two class.

Do let us know how you got on and what went well.

We would love to see your pictures so please share them and tag us!



@leprosytalk and #belabook



The Leprosy Mission England & Wales



leprosymission

You can take action and become a Leprosy Hero today!

English Year 3 & 4

Activity

Using page 33 entitled Leprosy Explained as a starting point, introduce the children to basic facts about leprosy.

Class activity:

The children work in pairs to carry out their own research and create a factsheet/Did You Know poster.

Some suggested headings could include: What is leprosy? Where is leprosy found? Is leprosy curable?

If the class has access to devices, consider using The Leprosy Mission website (www.leprosymission.org.uk) to source further information.

Curriculum Links

READING COMPREHENSION

Year 3 & 4 "Retrieve and record information from non-fiction" reading for a range of purposes

Leprosy Explained

What is leprosy?
Leprosy, also called Hansen's disease, or HD, is caused by a germ called *Mycobacterium leprae*. Disease is when you are not healthy.

Where is leprosy found?
Leprosy used to be a problem in the UK and Europe. Now it is found in hot and humid tropical and subtropical areas in the world.

Leprosy is mainly found in places of poverty, which means people with leprosy are often poorer than others around them.

How do you catch leprosy?
It is spread from person to person via droplets in coughs and sneezes.

It is very hard to get leprosy, because 95% of people are naturally immune, which means they cannot catch it.

What does it do to the body?
The first sign of leprosy is usually skin patches, which look a different colour. A person with leprosy does not feel anything if the patch is tickled with a feather.

Leprosy can stay in the body for many years without showing any signs. Many people who have leprosy don't find out until years after the germ went inside their body.

Leprosy affects nerves, which carry messages between the brain and body. It mainly affects the colder areas of the body, such as the nose, eyes, throat, hands and feet.

Leprosy can cause blindness, disability (not being able to do things) and disfigurement (changing the way the body looks). It can stop people feeling pain in affected areas on their skin.

Did you know that pain is important? Without it we do not know if something is too hot or too sharp and we can easily get hurt!

Treatment
Multi-drug therapy, or MDT, is a mix of medicines that cure leprosy. The cure was found in the 1980s. Very soon after taking the pills, people with leprosy stop passing on the germ. The quicker a person takes medicine the better it is to stop them having problems in the future.

Misconceptions and myths
Misconception means believing something that is untrue. Myths are unproved, invented ideas. Here are some common myths and misconceptions about leprosy and all are false:

- Leprosy causes body parts to fall off.
- Leprosy is easy to catch.
- You catch leprosy from touching someone who has it.
- Everyone with leprosy looks different from those who do not have it.
- People with leprosy should not be allowed to be around other people.

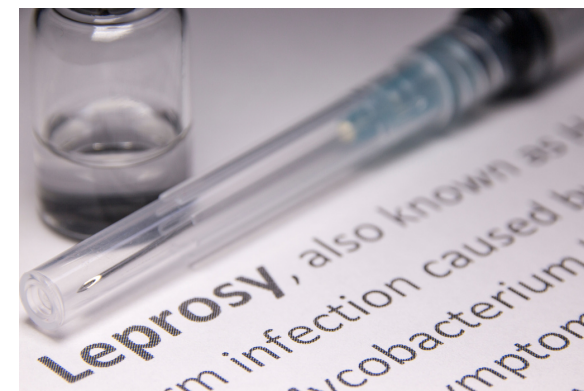

Social Issues
Prejudice is when someone believes something and makes

up their mind about a person because of that belief, without knowing the person or the truth. Leprosy patients are often avoided by others because of misconceptions. It hurts their feelings a lot.

How would you feel if someone made up their mind about you without knowing anything about you?

Share What You Know
Explaining to people about leprosy helps them to understand that leprosy is not a big deal. No one should be treated badly because they are different from you or others. That is called 'discrimination' and is very unfair and hurtful.

Now that you know about leprosy you can tell other people the truth!



English Year 5 & 6

Activity

Using the page Leprosy Explained as a starting point, introduce the children to basic facts about leprosy.

Class Activity:

The children choose one of the ten countries that The Leprosy Mission work in and create a poster/presentation to share with the rest of the class. Each country and the projects within it are featured on our website - www.leprosymission.org.uk

Curriculum Links

READING COMPREHENSION

Year 5 & 6 "Explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary and provide reasoned justifications for their views."

"Using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs and using further organisational and presentational devices to structure text and to guide the reader [for example, headings, bullet points, underlining]"

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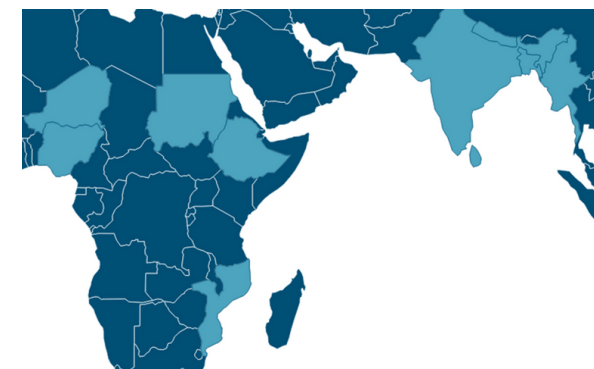
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English Years 5 & 6



Activity

In the story, Bela experiences discrimination from her community and school as a direct result of her leprosy. Using Kavin's story, which can be found here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzlsZxyA49Y and the information shared on the next couple of pages, set up a hot-seating activity to discuss this issue further.

Choose five children in the class who would like to take on the following suggested roles:

- A child with leprosy
- The child's parent
- A parent of another child in the class
- The headteacher
- The Leprosy Mission educator from the clinic

The rest of the class take turns to ask questions to the different people represented. E.g. How have you been treated since you caught leprosy? Why don't you want your child to attend school anymore?

Curriculum Links

Specific requirements for pupils to discuss what they are learning and to develop their wider skills in spoken language form part of this programme of study. In years 5 and 6, pupils' confidence, enjoyment and mastery of language should be extended through public speaking, performance and debate.

Meet Kavin



Kavinas' story

Kavinas is 11 years old and lives in Sri Lanka with his mum, dad, and younger brother. He was diagnosed with leprosy when he was six years old, when his parents noticed pale patches of skin on his back and arms. They took him to a clinic and he was told he had leprosy.

Kavinas has been cured of leprosy, but he has lost feeling where the patches were.

When Kavinas' teachers found out that he had leprosy, they told him he could no longer go to school. They were afraid of the disease and did not want children with leprosy around them. They even stopped him from taking exams with the other children and wanted him to wear long sleeves at all times to hide the patches on his arms. Kavinas' parents were very upset and asked someone from the clinic to talk to the headteacher about it.

Despite it being explained that leprosy should not be feared, the headteacher at Kavinas' school still did not want him there. He said he did not want to work at the school any more if Kavinas continued to attend.

Kavinas returned to school, but he continued to face a lot of prejudice from the other pupils. Their parents had told them not to sit next to Kavinas or play with him.

The Leprosy Mission's partners in Sri Lanka organised a visit to the school to talk to staff and pupils about leprosy, to help break down prejudice and educate people about the disease. This has helped, and Kavinas is no longer being bullied by the other pupils.



English Years 3 - 6

Activity

Year 3 & 4 Grammar activity:

Using sentences from the book as an example, ask the children to create their own sentences based on existing ones to enhance meaning.

E.g. "That's enough silliness," said Mama could be changed to "That's enough silliness," whispered/shrieked/sobbed Mama. Model how to use speech marks and other punctuation correctly.

Year 5 & 6 Dictionary activity:

Using The Leprosy Mission's website (www.leprosymission.org.uk), pick a country that the charity works in and ask the children to use the dictionary to find the meaning of unfamiliar words e.g. pioneer, advocate, densities, and transmission.

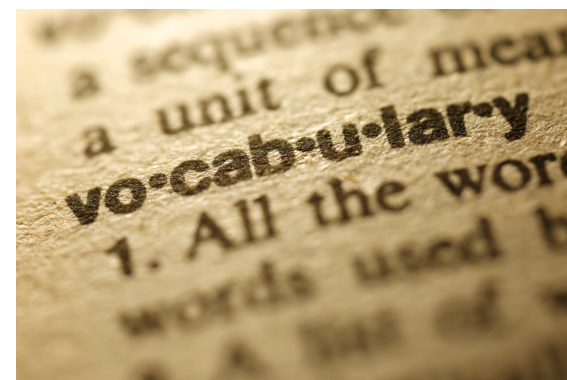
Curriculum Links

Year 3 & 4 Writing – composition.

- Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation "using and punctuating direct speech"
- "selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning"

Year 5 & 6 Writing – transcription

- "use dictionaries to check the spelling and meaning of words"



English

Activity

Write a letter to the headteacher of a school in Sri Lanka to persuade them to let the child return to school. Explain that no child should be excluded, and leprosy isn't contagious.

Write a letter as a concerned parent explaining to the headteacher your concerns surrounding the child with leprosy.

Curriculum Links

- “plan their writing by: identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own noting and developing initial ideas, drawing on reading and research where necessary ”
- “draft and write by: selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning”
- “using a wide range of devices to build cohesion within and across paragraphs”
- “evaluate and edit by: assessing the effectiveness of their own and others’ writing”
- “proposing changes to vocabulary, grammar and punctuation to enhance effects and clarify meaning”



Music



Activity

Listen to Indian music and experiment making their own compositions. Children work in pairs and small groups and perform their compositions to the rest of the class.

Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2 Music

- "Appreciate and understand a wide range of high-quality live and recorded music drawn from different traditions and from great composers and musicians"
- "improvise and compose music for a range of purposes using the inter-related dimensions of music"



Physical Education

Activity

Using YouTube, children learn dance steps from African and Asian countries and create their own movements to perform to the rest of the class.

Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2 PE

- “Perform dances using a range of movement patterns”

