



FOUNDATION  
AGAINST  
INTOLERANCE  
& RACISM

**Lesson and Unit Titles:** Our Shared Human Story

**Recommended Grade Levels:** K-12

**Recommended Pacing:** 45-90 minutes

**FAIR Standards and Objectives:** Humanity and Diversity

**Era(s):** Current

**Focus Area(s):** biological history of humanity

**Lesson Objectives:**

- Students will understand that every person has a unique story and a shared human story.
- Students will understand that every person has a unique identity and a shared human identity.
- Students will understand that people are all members of one human race, Sapiens.
- Students will understand that a distinguishing character strength of Sapiens is their ability to cooperate and build with people outside of their own tribes.

**Teacher Instructions:**

1. Familiarize students with the key vocabulary from FAIR Video #1.
2. If you would like more background on how homo sapiens came to populate the earth, you can watch this video: [https://youtu.be/CFOskkTm\\_x0](https://youtu.be/CFOskkTm_x0) (12:36)
3. Watch FAIR Video #1 (4 minutes)
4. During and/or after the video, either have the students take the interactive quiz individually first and then discuss the answer to each question, or have the students take the quiz together as a class project.
5. Lead discussion from each quiz question toward the lesson objectives.
6. Familiarize students with the key vocabulary from Video #2.
7. Watch Video #2 (6 minutes)
8. Lead discussion through discussion questions
9. (There may also be other Curriki activities to engage in.)

**Key Vocabulary:**

Homo sapiens: The species to which all modern human beings belong

**Animating Questions for Video 1 (during and/or after video):**

1. What does it mean that all humans share a common story?
  - a. Every person has exactly the same story.
  - b. *Every unique person shares in important parts of the same human story.*
  - c. Every person shares exactly the same culture.
  - d. Differences between people aren't important.
2. What does it mean that all humans share the same race?
  - a. All humans look the same.
  - b. All humans speak the same language.
  - c. *All humans are Homo Sapiens.*
  - d. All humans share the same ideas.
3. On what continent did our shared ancestors arise?
  - a. Asia
  - b. Europe
  - c. South America
  - d. *Africa*
4. True or False: Groups of people have different physical features because different groups of Sapiens settled in different parts of the world long ago.
  - a. *True*
  - b. False
5. What percentage of DNA (our biological genes) is common between any two humans?
  - a. 10%
  - b. 30%
  - c. 72%
  - d. *99.9%*
6. Which of the following was not a human race that went extinct?
  - a. Homo-Erectus
  - b. Neanderthals
  - c. *Homo Sapiens*
  - d. Denisovans
7. What rare ability does the human race (Sapiens) have that makes it especially successful?
  - a. Walking on two legs
  - b. *Cooperating with other humans outside our tribe*
  - c. Making tools
  - d. Hunting and gathering
8. What does E Pluribus Unum mean?
  - a. Don't tread on me.
  - b. We are all different.
  - c. We are all the same.
  - d. *Out of many, one.*
9. How many biologically distinct human races exist today?
  - a. *1*
  - b. 2

- c. 12
  - d. 23
10. What is one quality that makes America particularly special compared to other countries?
- a. America is governed as a democracy.
  - b. America has a powerful economy.
  - c. America has beautiful beaches, mountains, and rivers.
  - d. *Humans from around the globe have reunited in America and share their cultures.*

**Key Vocabulary for Video #2:**

DNA: a self-replicating material that is present in nearly all living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes. It is the carrier of genetic information.

DNA Test: a **test** that examines **DNA** and that is used to identify someone or to show that people are relatives.

Ethnicity: the fact or state of belonging to a social group that has a common national or cultural tradition.

Watch Video #2: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fw7FhU-G1\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fw7FhU-G1_Q)

**Discussion Questions for Video #2:**

1. How would you describe each of the people's relation to their ethnicity?
2. What does each person seem to assume about their ethnicity?
3. How would you describe the people's reaction to their actual DNA reports?
4. Why do you think some people cry when they get their reports?
5. What do you think this video has to do with our topic of how each person's story is both unique and shared?

**Extension Activities:** Depending on the age of the students, teachers can show some or all this video to help understand the migrations of Sapiens out of Africa more fully:

[https://youtu.be/CFOskkTm\\_x0](https://youtu.be/CFOskkTm_x0)