

**To be used with essential question:**

What are rights?

**Use of image:**

This version of the 1948 United Nations document, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, is from *ZenPencils.com*. *Zen Pencils* adds graphic design work to famous quotes, or as in this case much wordier texts, and makes them engaging and more accessible to a wider audience. This image will be used to help the students to understand what a “right” is before delving into the study of the rights of nature. The following discussion questions will go along with the visual, and will begin the discussion of the rights of nature. For individual copies, the poster can be purchased through the website, or it can be projected onto the board for the class to view collectively.

**Teacher Note:**

Students can document their responses to the following questions in their science journal, or on the attached note-taking guide. The teacher will also ask for students to share answers aloud, facilitating a class discussion.

**Discussion Questions:**

After you’ve looked over this graphic, what do you think is meant by the term, “rights?”

If people have rights, including the youngest and the oldest of us, do you think that the environment in which we live should also have rights?

If you do think that nature also has rights, which parts of the environment do you think this includes? Why?

If nature has rights, whose responsibility is it to protect those rights?

Can you think of a time when you think that nature’s rights have been violated?

**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1948, the Universal Declaration states basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled.

**WE ARE ALL BORN FREE AND EQUAL**  
**EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO THESE RIGHTS**  
NO MATTER YOUR RACE, RELIGION OR NATIONALITY

**EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM AND SAFETY**

**You have the responsibility to respect the rights of others**  
**NO ONE CAN TAKE AWAY ANY OF YOUR RIGHTS**

No one has the right to hold you in slavery.

You have the right to own property.

No one has the right to torture you.

Everyone has the right to belong to a religion.

You have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Freedom of Expression: You have the right to free thought and to voice your opinions to others.

We are all equal before the law and are entitled to equal protection of the law.

Everyone has the right to gather as a peaceful assembly.

You have the right to seek legal help if your rights are violated.

You have the right to help choose and to take part in governing your country, directly or through chosen representatives.

No one has the right to wrongly imprison you or force you to leave your country.

You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social and cultural help from your government.

You have the right to a fair and public trial.

Everyone is innocent until **PROVEN** guilty.

You have the right to privacy. No one can interfere with your reputation, family, home or correspondence.

Workers' rights: Every adult has the right to a job, a fair wage and to join a trade union.

You can travel wherever you want.

You have the right to leisure and rest from work.

You have the right to seek asylum in another country if you are being persecuted in your own country.

Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their family.

Everyone has the right to education.

Everyone has the right to a nationality.

Your intellectual property as an artist or scientist should be protected.

All adults have the right to marriage and to raise a family.

We are all entitled to social order so we can enjoy these rights.

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