



EduTrend Contents

P4C · FREEDOM AND CHOICE · MIDDLE SCHOOL

Free on an Island?

Is freedom having no rules?

Ages 11–13

Level: Intermediate

50 minutes

Circle and small groups
· up to 30

Activity 03

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 student worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 03 · AT A GLANCE

Free on an Island?

Students imagine they are alone on an island with no rules. Then ten more people arrive. Soon there are arguments about food, noise and shelter. Students list which rules they would make and which freedoms they would keep. They create questions and enquire into whether rules take away freedom or make it possible.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session students can:

- analyse the relationship between freedom and rules;
- compare individual and group life;
- reason about limits;
- reach a group judgement.

KEY WORDS

freedom · rules · island · harm · community · limit

CURRICULUM LINKS

Citizenship: laws and society.

History: early communities.

English: survival stories.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- Island story cards
- Rule and freedom chart
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Everyone may pass. Discuss ideas, not people, and use the story or invented examples rather than personal situations.

ACTIVITY 03 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–8 min Stimulus	Tell the island story in two stages.	<i>"What did you notice?"</i>
8–20 min Questions	Students create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>"Which question is most interesting to talk about?"</i>
20–44 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other's ideas.	<i>"Is freedom having no rules?"</i>
44–50 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>"Has your thinking changed?"</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Explain whether rules made the islanders more or less free.

ACTIVITY 03 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

John Stuart Mill argued in *On Liberty* that power may be used against a person's will only to prevent harm to others.

Many thinkers argue that shared rules protect people's freedom from interference by others.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Alone means perfectly free." You may not be free to do much.
- "All rules limit freedom." Some protect it.
- "The more rules, the better." Too many rules can harm.

Adapting the activity

Support

Choose three rules only.

Stretch

Write an island constitution.

WORKSHEET 1

Island rules

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Plan the island.

Island rules

Rule	Freedom it limits	Freedom it protects

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Can rules make us more free? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight students; copy as needed.

Student	Asks a philosophical question	Gives reasons and examples	Listens and builds on others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Free on an Island? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Freedom and Choice programme (middle school, level: intermediate). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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