

Oxford Primary Social Studies



OXFORD

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My Country and Me



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UNIVERSITY PRESS

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1 Culture and identity

In this unit you will learn:

- about your values, goals, skills and attributes
- how to be part of society
- how to make responsible choices and decisions
- about some of the special features of your nation and its culture.



? Which values do you think are important in your country?

customs
independent honesty
loyalty responsibility
role model principles
borders

1.1 Knowing myself

In this lesson you will learn:

- to consider your personal values
- to think about your goals
- to identify your skills and attributes.

Personal values

Values are the things in life that we think are important. They are the **principles** we try to follow. Our values help to make us who we are. Values determine the way we relate to other people and to the world around us.

We develop values as we start to appreciate certain attitudes or behaviour such as kindness, honesty and respect. We hope to see these qualities in other people and to develop them in ourselves.

These values can determine the way we speak and act. Before we say or do something we ask ourselves whether it fits with our values. When kindness and honesty are important values to us, for instance, we ask ourselves whether what we are about to say is kind or if what we are about to do is honest.



▲ Some personal values. How would having these values affect the way a person behaves?

Goals and values

Values can help people identify personal goals and how these will be achieved.

Personal goals change as people grow. Very young children are busy learning new skills. They learn to become more independent, thinking and doing more for themselves.

Older children try new hobbies and activities. They find what they enjoy and what interests them. This helps them as they start to think about what they might like to do in the future and what their goals will be.



▲ Trying out new activities lets you find out if you enjoy them.

Skills and attributes

We can have skills and attributes to do with a particular subject or activity. Some important skills and attributes, for example concentration and perseverance, can help us when we are learning something new. We also need some special skills and attributes when we are relating to others, for example communication skills, understanding and patience.

We sometimes face times that are challenging and we may need other attributes such as courage and resilience.

Activities

- 1 Make a list showing goals you have in school now, goals outside school and goals for the future.
- 2 Write about times when you have had to persevere.

1.2 Values and society

In this lesson you will learn:

- how personal values become shared values
- about shared values in countries of the Arabian Gulf
- how your actions can affect other people.

Shared values

Our values often come from what we think is right or wrong. We call this a sense of morality. When people living together in a **society** agree about what is right or wrong they often share a set of values. These shared values are an important part of the success of the society. The society will also teach its members about those values. This happens within the informal environment of the family and also more formally through the school system and other **institutions**. In this way the values become part of the society's identity. People in the community are expected to behave in ways that reflect the values of society.

Shared values in countries of the Arabian Gulf

Societies in the Arabian Gulf are built on centuries of **traditions** which come from cultural, religious and tribal **heritage**. These traditions have been passed down from one generation to the next and they are the foundations of society. For this reason they should be acknowledged and respected by everyone.

Loyalty is highly valued in Arabian Gulf societies. This means that people are expected to commit to the groups to which they belong, for example by agreeing to follow its rules and demonstrating a sense of responsibility towards one another.

Other values that have been passed down through generations are hospitality and generosity. These values are part of the traditions from the **nomadic** peoples. They were used to living in the harsh conditions of the desert and were always aware that people living in or passing through those places might need food or rest.

Valuing other people

Living in a society means being part of a group. Each person in a group has to be aware of other members and the needs and desires they have. This means that a person's actions have to reflect that awareness. It is not good to behave in a way that prevents other people's needs being met or that causes anyone to be upset or offended.

People who are able to live and behave in a way that matches the values of a society are able to respect themselves and to be respected by others. This requires people to take responsibility for themselves and for their own actions.



▲ Showing hospitality and generosity are important values in Arab societies.

Activities

- 1 Write about some of the values you think are important in the society in which you live and how they affect the way people live.
- 2 Work in a group to discuss people's needs in the classroom. Describe the sort of class behaviour that will make sure those needs are met.

1.3 Role models

In this lesson you will learn:

- how a person can be a role model
- to identify role models from different parts of life
- to understand and describe what makes a person a good role model.

Role models

A role model is a person who is admired by other people. People may wish to imitate a role model's general behaviour or wish to achieve a similar degree of success.

Some role models are people who have become well-known because of special achievements in a particular area of life. Other role models are those people whose behaviour sets a good example in everyday situations.

Role models can be from anywhere in the world and also in our family, school and local community.

Role models in school

Good role models in school are those members of the school community who do all that they can to make sure that everybody's experience of being in the school is as good as it can be. These students behave in a way that the school expects.

That means that they follow school and class rules and work hard in their studies. It also means that they care about other people's feelings and rights. They care about the school and its values. They want to use some of their time and skills to make the school as good as it can be for everyone.



▲ When people show care and kindness they are acting as a good role model for others in society.



▲ Taking part in class discussions is an important way of helping learning to take place in school.

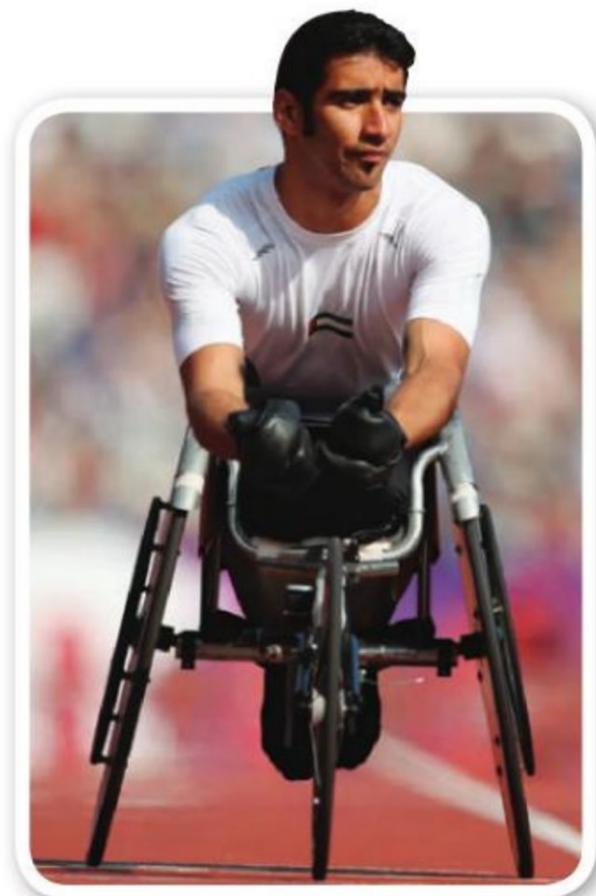
There may also be certain students in school who achieve success in a particular part of a school's life, for example by reaching a certain level of achievement in a certain subject, by representing the school in a particular activity or by being active in promoting an aspect of school life such as environmental awareness. These individuals can be role models for others who want to achieve similar things.

Role models in society

In the wider world we also hear about people who are held up as examples for others to follow. These can be people who achieve success in sport, devote themselves to working for charity or overcome serious difficulties and challenges.

Activities

- 1 Work in a group and prepare a list of qualities, behaviours and attitudes you think a good role model in school would have.
- 2 Carry out some research into a person you think is a good role model.



▲ Sportspeople such as Mohammed Al Hammadi encourage people to do their best whatever their circumstances.

1.4 Families and values

In this lesson you will learn:

- that the family is a vital part of society
- how families pass on values
- what people learn as they prepare to enter society.

The family unit

A family unit is made up of parents and children, together with other people who are related, including grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. Relationships are very close within a family unit and children can learn many important lessons from parents and elders.

People feel a strong sense of belonging to the family unit. This sense remains strong even when the number of relationships increases as families join together through marriage or when families relate to each other as part of a wider community.

Passing on values

In families, values are passed on from one generation to another. Children witness the actions, speech and behaviour of other family members and they assume that this is the correct way to behave. They follow the example of their parents and relatives. Some values, however, may need to be taught separately because they are not easily understood without being explained. For example, parents may have to teach a child about being honest.



▲ A person who is treated with care and respect is more likely to treat others in the same way.