The Fight for Human Rights

Nobel Prize Lessons
1. What are human rights?

The United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a list of thirty articles describing the freedoms and rights that apply to all people throughout the world.
2. When did the idea of human rights first come up?

France’s 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen.

Eugène Delacroix’s painting *Liberty Leading the People*, made in 1830.
3. Why was the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights created?

People didn’t want any of the horrible and cruel things that happened during the Second World War (1939–1945) to ever happen again.
4. Who created the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

The UN gathered people from different parts of the world to work together to try to decide what rights people everywhere on Earth are entitled to.

Photo: John Peters Humphrey, a lawyer from Canada; Eleanor Roosevelt, a diplomat from the United States; and René Cassin, a lawyer from France.
5. When were the universal human rights passed?

10 December 1948 röstades FN:s allmänna förklaring om de mänskliga rättigheterna igenom – en historisk händelse.

Photo: Eleanor Roosevelt holds a poster of the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights. November 1949, New York.
6. How does the UN defend human rights?

- The UN establishes **conventions**, which are a form of legally binding agreement, to defend human rights.

- The UN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2001.
Do you know any of the universal human rights?
8. What rights are covered in Articles 1–5?

- All people are born free, with the same value and the same rights.

- Universal human rights apply to all people everywhere in the world.
9. What rights are covered in Articles 6–11?

- Laws that provide protection for citizens.
- A fair court system that treats everyone equally.
10. What rights are covered in Articles 12–18?

- Everyone should be able to travel within their own country and to other countries.

- Countries must take in refugees who are without protection in their own countries.

- Everyone should be allowed to decide how to live their own life.
11. Vilka mänskliga rättigheter handlar artikel 19-21 om?

- Everyone has a right to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression.
- Everyone has the right to form a group or association.
- Everyone has an equal say in how their country should be governed.
12. What rights are covered in Articles 22–25?

- Everyone has the right to have enough money to live on.
- Everyone has the right to work and the right to have time for rest and recreation.
13. What rights are covered in Articles 26–27?

- Everyone has the right to go to school.
- Everyone has the right to enjoy culture, like reading books or going to the movies.
14. What rights are covered in Articles 28–30?

- Everyone must lend a hand if the society they live in is to be free.
15. How much of the world has human rights today?

- **Green**: Free/high score
- **Yellow**: Partly free/medium score
- **Purple**: Not free/low score

(Source: Freedom House, 2019)
The lawyer René Cassin (1887–1976) is considered to have been the brain and the driving force behind the writing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968.
17. Nobel Prize awarded human rights activist from Iran

Lawyer Shirin Ebadi (born 1947) fights for the rights of women and children in Iran.

She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003.
18. Nobel Prize awarded human rights activist from Iraq

Nadia Murad (born 1993) fights to get the world’s leaders to do more to stop sexual violence against women and girls.

She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018.
19. Nobel Prize awarded human rights activist from the United States

Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968) was a leader of the African American struggle for equal rights.

He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.
"Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where the people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free."

Dalai Lama, Nobel Peace Prize 1989