Fertile Question: *Is my existence part of a bigger plan?*

Core Content Area 2: Why are we here?

**TOPIC 2.2: The getting of wisdom**

**Extending Knowledge: I think therefore I am. Is that it?**

In this lesson students will explore various aspects of humanity and what it means to be human.

**Teachers: Before You Start!**

1. Set up a [TodaysMeet](#) or [Typewithme](#) page for students to add their views to the discussion.
2. Allow enough time to download the YouTube clips referred to in this lesson. Buffering times vary from computer to computer.

**For students to explore aspects of humanity and what it means to be human, complete the following activities:**

1. Rene Descarte (pictured above) was a sixteenth century French philosopher who coined the famous phrase “I think therefore I am”. He has frequently been labelled as having a dualistic view of life promoting one good above another. For example Descarte’s separates the mind and body, rationality and emotion.
   a. Critique the phrase from Descarte: “I think therefore I am”. Is thinking the one thing, the most important thing that makes us exist as human beings? Will thinking alone secure the future of the human race and the earth?
      i. Discuss the statement with a partner.
      ii. Post your thoughts about the question to a TodaysMeet page. Read the posts of others and comment or ask questions to clarify your thinking.
   b. Explore other aspects of being human.
      i. View the short movie clip [Caring makes us human](#). What does this story contribute to the discussion about what makes us human?
      ii. View the short movie clip about the human desire to be taken seriously. In Australian sociologist Hugh Mackay’s book *What makes us tick?*, he lists ten desires that drive the choices that human’s make. The desire to be taken seriously, to have a place, for something to believe in, to connect, to be useful, to belong, for more, to have control, for something to happen and for love. He says they are not independent of each other, good or bad, they just exist and cause our decision making sometimes to not be as life giving as it should be. Can you relate to these desires? Can you think of a time when you felt that you were not taken seriously? How did you react? How do you respond to this summary of humanity? Is there anything missing? Add thoughts to the collaborative space.
      iii. Create your own version of Descartes’ phrase.
Acknowledgement

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