

Thinking About Right and Wrong: Moral Questions

Learning objective: To understand the difference between a moral question and a factual question, and to explore how we make ethical decisions.

Max the monkey is looking at some different situations. Help Max decide if the questions are about facts (things that can be proven) or morals (things about right and wrong). Then, think about what the most helpful choice would be in each scenario.

Word bank: Moral · Factual · Honesty · Fairness · Consequence · Empathy

1. Look at these two questions: 'What time does school start?' and 'Is it ever okay to tell a lie?'. Which one is a moral question, and how do you know? (2 marks)

2. Max finds a £5 note on the playground. Nobody is around to see him pick it up. What is the 'moral' thing to do in this situation, and why? (2 marks)

3. If two people disagree about what the 'right' thing to do is, does that mean one of them must be wrong? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

4. Imagine a friend asks you to help them cheat on a maths puzzle. If you say no, they might be cross. If you say yes, you are being dishonest. Which choice is more important: being a loyal friend or being honest? (3 marks)

5. Why do you think most communities have rules or laws to help people decide how to behave towards one another? (2 marks)

6. What does the word 'empathy' mean, and how does it help us answer moral questions? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a time you helped someone or did something kind. Label the 'moral choice' you made in your drawing.



Extension challenge: Can you think of a situation where doing the 'right thing' might be very difficult? Write a short paragraph explaining why it is hard and what the best outcome would be.