

COMMONWEALTH CLASS

COMMONWEALTH PROJECT

LESSON PLAN 3

In collaboration with



FirstNews
the weekly newspaper for young people

LESSON 3

Learn More About The Commonwealth

Learning outcomes To develop knowledge and understanding of the member states, including similarities and differences, and make friends with other children from around the world.

Remind pupils how all the countries in the Commonwealth are independent and equal nations. Through friendship and respect, they work together by sharing ideas and experiences, skills and knowledge, in order to help each other.

Just like a school, the Commonwealth countries have a list of rules to protect people and help the member states to do well. These rules are called values and principles and make up the Commonwealth Charter. The Charter is at the heart of everything the Commonwealth does.

Show the class the Commonwealth Charter resource, in **Appendix A**. Discuss the questions. You can compare the Charter with your school rules, so that pupils can talk about the differences and similarities.

Hand out the bingo grids, in **Appendix C**. You can also share copies of the Charter poster, in **Appendix B**, for the pupils to reference during the game. Ask the pupils to fill out the grids with numbers from 1–16. Explain that these relate to the numbers in the Charter, and that you're going to read out definitions and

pupils have to guess which Charter number they relate to. Read out the first definition from your caller sheet, in **Appendix D**:

1. Treat all people as equal and with respect (e.g. gender, race, colour, language, political beliefs, or religion). Give everyone access to education and healthcare.

Ask the pupils to guess which value and principle it is linked to.

Answer: the first definition is for Charter rule 2 – Human Rights.

Pupils should then cross off the Charter number on their bingo grid. Continue with the game. The first pupil to complete a row should call out, 'Bingo!'. You can keep going until the first five pupils have completed a row...



1. Democracy

Ensure everyone has the right to vote in free and fair elections, choose their own leaders, and be governed in a democratic way.

2. Human Rights

Treat all people as equal and with respect (e.g. gender, race, colour, language, political beliefs, or religion). Give everyone access to education and healthcare.

3. International Peace and Security

Work for the safety, development and prosperity of every Commonwealth country.

4. Tolerance, Respect and Understanding

Accept, respect and understand other people and their different cultures because it is this diversity that makes the Commonwealth so special.

5. Freedom of Expression

Encourage people and member countries to express their opinions in an open, responsible, peaceful and democratic way.

16. The Role of Civil Society

Support groups of people working for change, e.g. charities, health and education organisations, and human rights campaigns etc.

**15. Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States**

Give immediate help to those in need, especially in the least developed countries.

**14. Recognition of the Needs of Small States**

Help the small and developing countries, including big issues, such as climate change.

**13. Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth**

Give them opportunities to do well in life, especially through education and work, so they can continue to help the Commonwealth grow.

12. Gender Equality

Work for the same rights and opportunities for men and women.

11. Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter

Work for affordable health care, education, clean drinking water and safe, nutritious food, hygienic toilets and washing facilities, and decent housing for everyone.

10. Protecting the Environment

Work together to look after the environment, in order to help communities survive and prosper in the diverse member states.

9. Sustainable Development

Help people with education and work, and improve trade opportunities, to help countries prosper and create more equality in the world. Ensure the environment is protected.

6. Separation of Powers

Support the different groups who are responsible for the law, e.g. governments and judges, and the job they have to protect human rights.

7. Rule of Law

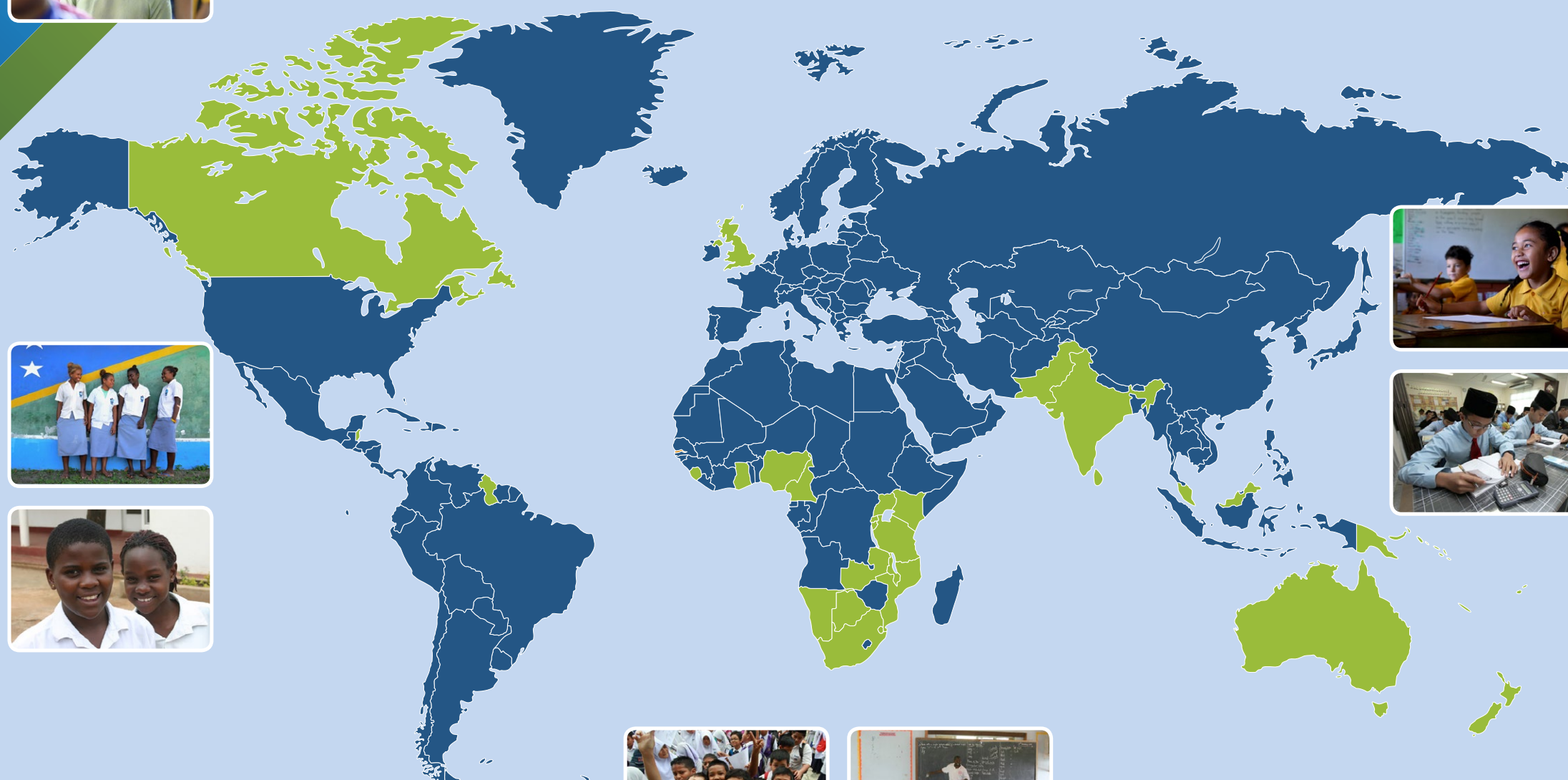
Support the law because it protects people.

8. Good Governance

Support fair leaders and governments which keep to the laws. Take action against corruption.

The Commonwealth Charter

COMMONWEALTH CLASS



In collaboration with

FirstNews
the weekly newspaper for young people

Commonwealth Charter – improving the lives of everyone in the Commonwealth



- 1. Democracy**
Ensure the rights of everyone to be able to vote in free and fair elections, to choose their own leaders, be governed in a democratic way, and that the Commonwealth values are kept.

Did you know?
The word **democracy** means rule by the people. It comes from the Greek words *demos* (people) and *kratos* (rule).

- 2. Human Rights**
Treat all people as equal and with respect (e.g. gender, race, colour, language, political beliefs, or religion), as outlined in United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Give everyone access to education and healthcare.

Discuss How well do you know the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights? www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html

- 3. International Peace and Security**
Work for the safety, development and prosperity of every Commonwealth country. This includes supporting global peace and disarmament and condemning terrorism.

Discuss How do you think the Commonwealth can support global peace?

- 4. Tolerance, Respect and Understanding**
Accept, respect and understand other people and their different cultures because it is this diversity that makes the Commonwealth so special.

Discuss What are the different cultures where you live?

- 5. Freedom of Expression**
Encourage people and member countries to express their opinions in an open, responsible, peaceful and democratic way.

Discuss Do you think freedom of expression is a human right?

- 6. Separation of Powers**
Support the different groups which look after the laws: 1. Government (the legislature which passes laws), 2. Leaders (the executive, e.g. president or minister, whose job it is to enforce the law), and 3. Judges (the judiciary who interpret the laws and pass judgement).

Discuss Why is it a good idea to keep these different groups, which look after the laws, separate?

- 7. Rule of Law**
Support the law (because it protects people), as well as those who uphold the laws in a fair way, such as judges.

Discuss How can the Commonwealth support the law in such diverse member states?

- 8. Good Governance**
Support fair leaders and governments, which keep to the laws. Take action against corruption.

Discuss Do you think it's a good idea, or not, for the Commonwealth to be involved in the way member states are run? Give reasons for your answer.

- 9. Sustainable Development**
Help people with education and work, improve trade opportunities, to help countries prosper and create more equality in the world. Ensure the environment is protected.

Discuss How can the Commonwealth help its countries with trade?

- 10. Protecting the Environment**
Work together to look after the environment, in order to help communities survive and prosper in the diverse member states.

Discuss Why can communities do well when they live in a protected environment?

- 11. Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter**
Work for affordable health care, education, clean drinking water and safe, nutritious food, hygienic toilets and washing facilities, and decent housing for everyone.

Discuss Which do you think is more important: education or hygienic toilets?

- 12. Gender Equality**
Work for the same rights and opportunities for men and women. This is because countries develop when women's rights improve and girls are educated.

Discuss How will education for girls, and improving women's rights, help families and communities?

- 13. Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth**
Young people are the Commonwealth's future. Give them opportunities to do well in life, especially through education and work, so they can continue to help the member states grow.

Discuss How do you think young people can contribute to the Commonwealth?

- 14. Recognition of the Needs of Small States**
Help the small and developing states in the Commonwealth with issues, such as climate change.

Discuss Why should the Commonwealth help small states with problems, such as the rise of sea levels?

- 15. Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States**
Give immediate help to those in need, especially in the least developed countries.

Discuss Why do you think it is important to help other countries in need, e.g. from the devastation caused by natural disasters, such as typhoons?

- 16. The Role of Civil Society**
Support civil society (groups of people working for change, e.g. charities, health and education organisations, human rights campaigns etc.).

Discuss Why is it good for the Commonwealth to work with other organisations?



COMMONWEALTH CHARTER BINGO!

Write numbers from 1–16 in each of the boxes below.
Don't forget to jumble the numbers up, so they are not in order...

COMMONWEALTH CHARTER BINGO!

Write numbers from 1–16 in each of the boxes below.
Don't forget to jumble the numbers up, so they are not in order...

COMMONWEALTH CHARTER BINGO!

Caller Sheet

1.

Treat all people as equal and with respect (e.g. gender, race, colour, language, political beliefs, or religion). Give everyone access to education and healthcare.
ANSWER: Charter rule 2 – Human Rights
2.

Young people are the Commonwealth's future. Give them opportunities to do well in life, especially through education and work, so they can continue to help the member states grow.
ANSWER: Charter rule 13 – Importance of Young People in the Commonwealth
3.

Give immediate help to those in need, especially in the least developed countries.
ANSWER: Charter rule 15 – Recognition of the Needs of Vulnerable States
4.

Accept, respect and understand other people and their different cultures because it is this diversity that makes the Commonwealth so special.
ANSWER: Charter rule 4 – Tolerance, Respect and Understanding
5.

Encourage people and member countries to express their opinions in an open, responsible, peaceful and democratic way.
ANSWER: Charter rule 5 – Freedom of Expression
6.

Help people with education and work, improve trade opportunities, to help countries prosper and create more equality in the world. Ensure the environment is protected.
ANSWER: Charter rule 9 – Sustainable Development
7.

Work for the safety, development and prosperity of every Commonwealth country. This includes supporting global peace and disarmament and condemning terrorism.
ANSWER: Charter rule 3 – International Peace and Security
8.

Support the different groups which look after the laws: 1. Government (the legislature which passes laws), 2. Leaders (the executive, e.g. president or minister, whose job it is to enforce the law), and 3. Judges (the judiciary who interpret the laws and pass judgement).
ANSWER: Charter rule 6 – Separation of Powers
9.

Ensure the rights of everyone to be able to vote in free and fair elections, to choose their own leaders, and be governed in a democratic way. Make certain that Commonwealth values are kept.
ANSWER: Charter rule 1 – Democracy
10.

Help the small and developing states in the Commonwealth with issues, such as climate change.
ANSWER: Charter rule 14 – Recognition of the Needs of Small States
11.

Support fair leaders and governments which keep to the laws. Take action against corruption.
ANSWER: Charter rule 8 – Good Governance
12.

Make sure that there is affordable health care, education, clean drinking water and safe, nutritious food, hygienic toilets and washing facilities, and decent housing for everyone.
ANSWER: Charter rule 11 – Access to Health, Education, Food and Shelter
13.

Work together to look after the environment, in order to help communities survive and prosper in the diverse member states.
ANSWER: Charter rule 10 – Protecting the Environment
14.

Support the law (because it protects people), as well as those who uphold the laws in a fair way, such as judges.
ANSWER: Charter rule 7 – Rule of Law
15.

Support civil society (i.e. groups of people working for change, e.g. charities, health and education organisations, and human rights campaigns etc.).
ANSWER: Charter rule 16 – The Role of Civil Society
16.

Work for the same rights and opportunities for men and woman. This is because countries develop when women's rights improve and girls are educated.
ANSWER: Charter rule 12 – Gender Equality