

# **Human Needs**

## **PROBLEM:**

It is believed by many that aliens from other planets have been visiting our planet. Many believe that at first these aliens were interested only in the physical make-up of the earth. However, there has been some evidence in recent years that their interest may have shifted to humans. This includes the apparent interception of many human communications, transmissions such as radio and television. Rumors are circulating among many that first-hand encounters between aliens and humans are increasing at a rapid rate.

Several days ago, five teenage persons disappeared. Mysterious tracks near their car have yet to be explained. There was no evidence as to how or why they vanished. Reports of strange lights in the sky have linked their disappearance to flying saucers and alien creatures. However, among many serious people who report such sightings are those who believe the disappearance of the teens is a prank.

On the way home last evening, you also noticed some strange lights in the sky. Ignoring them, you continued your way homeward. Then, without warning, you found yourself in an entirely new environment. By some means, you were "beamed" aboard an alien ship. Equally surprising, you looked across the room to see the five teenagers sitting very comfortably along the observation deck rail.

Without speaking a word, an alien "speaks" to you. "We are seeking information about your planet's people. We know much about what and who your people are. Our data on the physical characteristics and behavior of humans are extensive. But we know little as to why you do what you do. Our data here are confusing."

## **ACTIVITY:**

These five humans were asked to name the one thing that all humans need. This question resulted in five different answers. Rank order the following responses from the most important human need down to least important human need. Before beginning, you may need to define what is meant by "human need."



1. Jackie argued that **SELF-ESTEEM** is the most important need. “Humans need respect for who they are. People want to be judged on the basis of who they are and/or what they provide for themselves, their family, or peers. This is not necessarily only physical goods, but can also include meeting the emotional needs of other individuals. When esteem is shared, people are better able to appreciate one another.”
2. Jamie stated that the most important need humans have is the **NEED FOR SAFETY**. “Humans need to feel safe. This includes not only safety within the family but also safety within the community, state, and nation. Being safe allows for other feelings to grow and mature.”
3. Danny stated, “A person’s biggest need is **PHYSIOLOGICAL**. Humans need food and water in order to survive or develop any other consideration separate from their own struggle for existence.”
4. Kelly felt **LOVE** is the most important need. “Humans need to be loved and feel others care about them for who they are. By having love, they are not afraid to make mistakes for there will be someone who cares about them and overlooks their mistakes. Having love and sharing love creates the desire to do good toward others.”
5. Gale felt **SELF-ACTUALIZATION** is the most important human need. “Humans need to be able to make decisions for themselves and be comfortable with their decision even if it is not the most popular decision. They need to be able to solve problems for themselves and to be concerned with the needs of others as they search for self-centered answers. Being comfortable and satisfied with oneself—realizing the fullest of one’s potential—is the most important human need.”

After rank ordering your choices, share your ideas with others in your class. Be prepared to give reasons for your rankings.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the question asked of the five humans by the alien?



1. Jackie argued that **SELF-ESTEEM** is the most important need. “Humans need respect for who they are. People want to be judged on the basis of who they are and/or what they provide for themselves, their family, or peers. This is not necessarily only physical goods, but can also include meeting the emotional needs of other individuals. When esteem is shared, people are better able to appreciate one another.”
2. Jamie stated that the most important need humans have is the **NEED FOR SAFETY**. “Humans need to feel safe. This includes not only safety within the family but also safety within the community, state, and nation. Being safe allows for other feelings to grow and mature.”
3. Danny stated, “A person’s biggest need is **PHYSIOLOGICAL**. Humans need food and water in order to survive or develop any other consideration separate from their own struggle for existence.”
4. Kelly felt **LOVE** is the most important need. “Humans need to be loved and feel others care about them for who they are. By having love, they are not afraid to make mistakes for there will be someone who cares about them and overlooks their mistakes. Having love and sharing love creates the desire to do good toward others.”
5. Gale felt **SELF-ACTUALIZATION** is the most important human need. “Humans need to be able to make decisions for themselves and be comfortable with their decision even if it is not the most popular decision. They need to be able to solve problems for themselves and to be concerned with the needs of others as they search for self-centered answers. Being comfortable and satisfied with oneself—realizing the fullest of one’s potential—is the most important human need.”

After rank ordering your choices, share your ideas with others in your class. Be prepared to give reasons for your rankings.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the question asked of the five humans by the alien?



- 2. The five individuals named physiological needs, love, safety, self-esteem, and self-actualization as the most important human needs. Can you think of other human needs?**
- 3. What would be the most important need(s) of a small child?**
- 4. How do our needs/values change as we get older?**
- 5. How might the fulfillment of one's needs better develop an individual mentally, physically, and socially?**
- 6. Think of a country different from your own. How might the needs of persons there differ from your own needs?**