



## My Character: My Life, Your Life, Our Future

Name:

My School:

My Teacher:

My Class:

## Saving for the Future

The My Character Resources have been developed by the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues at the University of Birmingham, alongside young people across the UK. This is one of a set of 10 eResources, each aiming to encourage young people to be more future minded and to think about who they are and who they want to become.

The other eResources in this series are

Having a Dream  
Having Patience  
Helping Others  
Being Determined  
Having Courage  
Working Together  
Thinking Creatively  
My Character - Review

Please go to [www.mycharacter.co.uk](http://www.mycharacter.co.uk) to download them.



# Saving for the Future

The quality of using money and other resources carefully and not wastefully

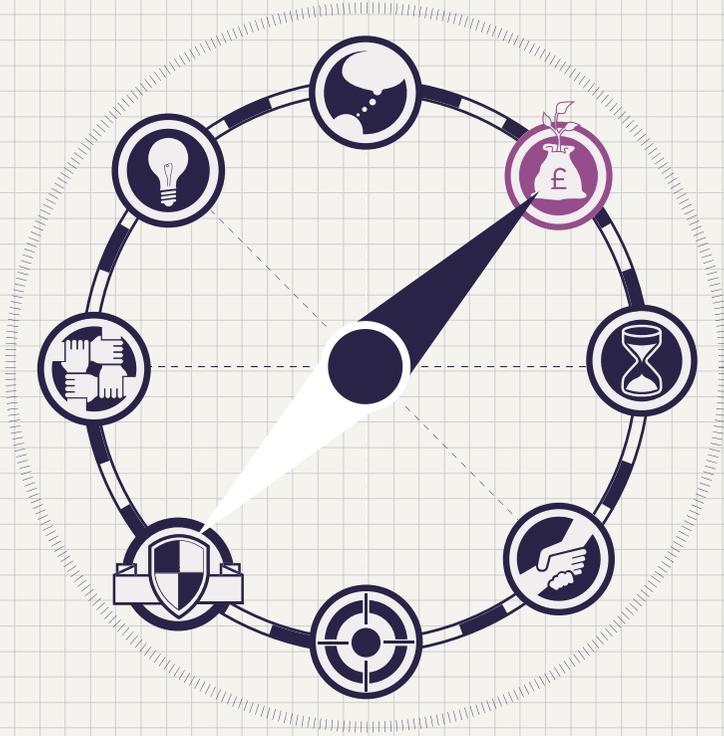
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A key characteristic of a successful person is someone who is able to save for the future. Someone who is able to be prudent, and think about the long term, rather than just the short term. There are many things we should all save for the future including money and the earth's resources. People who save for the future are able to say no to things now, in order to get something better for everyone in the future.

Having the ability to save for the future is not just good for you, but also good for our planet.

.....

Current location:



Keywords

Keep

Frugal

Safeguard

Conserve

Protect

Store

Thrifty

Careful

Discretion

# My Inspirations

My favourite quote is:

Because:

'The safest way to double your money is to fold it over and put it in your pocket.' – **Kin Hubbard**

'We did not come to fear the future. We came here to shape it.' – **Barack Obama**

'It pays to plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.' – **Anon**

'Expect the best, plan for the worst, and prepare to be surprised.' – **Denis Waitley**

'He who fails to plan, plans to fail' – **Anon**

'Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning' – **Winston Churchill**

'One of the dangers of habitual accumulation is using the time available for enjoyment in furious acquisition of more and more. We substitute the joy of ownership for the desire of accumulation.' – **Fred Smith**

'He will always be a slave who does not know how to live upon a little.' – **Anon**

'Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need most.' – **Anon**

'Today, there are three kinds of people: the have's, the have-not's, and the have-not-paid-for-what-they-have's' – **Earl Wilson**

# Inspirational People

David Attenborough (1926 – present day)

Television presenter, Environmentalist



David Attenborough has been the face and voice of natural history programmes in Britain for more than 50 years. David is best known for writing and presenting the Life series on the BBC, and his 'Africa' series in 2013. Despite being in his eighties David is still working and passionate about wildlife.

Born in 1926, in Isleworth, West London, Attenborough always loved the natural world and spent his childhood collecting fossils, stones and other natural specimens. One of his adoptive sisters gave him a piece of amber filled with prehistoric creatures; some 50 years later, it would be the focus of his programme The Amber Time Machine.

Attenborough won a scholarship to Clare College, Cambridge in 1945, where he studied geology and zoology and obtained a degree in Natural Sciences. In 1950 he applied for a job as a Radio Talks producer with the BBC and in 1952 he joined the BBC full time. He's worked as a producer, controller, and presenter and has commissioned and produced many programmes focusing on everything from animal courtship displays, to elephants in Tanzania.

Attenborough has strong opinions on the dangers of climate change and of not taking care of the world for the future. His programmes have often included references to the impact of human society on the natural world. The last episode of The Living Planet, for example, focuses almost entirely on humans' destruction of the environment and the ways that it could be stopped or reversed.



His closing message from The State of the Planet was forthright:

“The future of life on earth depends on our ability to take action. Many individuals are doing what they can, but real success can only come if there's a change in our societies and our economics and in our politics. I've been lucky in my lifetime to see some of the greatest spectacles that the natural world has to offer. Surely we have a responsibility to leave for future generations a planet that is healthy, inhabitable by all species.” – David Attenborough

# Inspirational People



**Lord Alan Sugar (1947 – present day)**  
British Entrepreneur

Lord Alan Sugar is most famously known among the public for his role in the BBC television programme *The Apprentice*. However, to reach where he is today, he had to work very hard and plan for his future. Lord Sugar was born in Hackney, London. His family didn't have a lot of money and he was often bullied at school because his school uniform was homemade and his family couldn't afford a lavish bar mitzvah like his friends.

However, instead of becoming depressed, Lord Sugar worked hard and focused on his money making ventures. At the age of twelve, Lord Sugar woke at 6am every morning to boil beetroots for a local greengrocer. Over the years he did a milk and paper round, worked at a bakers and sold neighbours his home brewed ginger beer, saving money so he could eventually buy a van and use it to sell car aerials and electrical goods.

In 1968 Lord Sugar founded Amstrad. During the 1980s the company doubled its profits every year and soon Amstrad became one of the UK's leading consumer electronics companies. In 2007, BskyB bought Amstrad for about £125 million!

Lord Sugar now focuses on his other businesses, including his property portfolio in Mayfair in London, and his executive private jet company. In 2005 he began *The Apprentice*, a reality TV programme where aspiring business people compete in a variety of challenges to win a job working for him.

In 2009 he was named Enterprise Champion and appointed to the House of Lords as Baron Sugar of Clapton in the London Borough of



Hackney. He was awarded this title for his campaign that promoted the benefits of apprenticeships. In 2011 he was ranked 89th in the Sunday Times 2011 Rich List with an estimated wealth of £770 million.

Lord Sugar worked very hard to get where he is today. He overcame bullying at school by working hard and saving money for his future, and having faith that he would be successful. He focuses on helping others to do this, working with schools and businesses to promote apprenticeships to help young people in the UK enter into businesses and/or learn important skills without going to university.

**“Back at home, lack of money was always the main item on the agenda. My parents did their best, but not being able to have what I wanted made me determined to do something for myself – to be self-sufficient.” – Lord Alan Sugar**



# My Actions

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## Activity 6: How much does it cost?

Do you know how much it will cost to live when you grow up and leave home? Do you know how much your parents spend every week on shopping, bills, entertainment and everything else they buy?

Complete the following chart by guessing how much the average family spends each week on the following items

Item	Gussed Value
Food and Drink	
Alcohol and tobacco	
Clothing and Footwear	
Housing fuel and power and services	
Health	
Transport	
Communication	
Entertainment	
Education	
Restaurants and Hotels	
Total	



Go to the end of this resource to complete next part of activity 6

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## Activity 7: Risking it all?

Much of your ability to save for the future depends on your attitude towards risk. Are you a saver or a spender? Are you a risk taker, or risk averse?

Answer the questions in the quiz below to discover what your risk personality is.

- 1 If you were given £100, and given a chance to double it to £200 on the toss of a coin, would you take the risk?  
a) Yes      b) No      c) Maybe
- 2 Who would you rather impress?  
a) Yourself      b) Your friends      c) Your Family
- 3 Do you look at several places to buy something before you decide where to buy it?  
a) Yes      b) Sometimes      c) No
- 4 Would you take a risk even if it upset your friends?  
a) Yes      b) No      c) Maybe
- 5 Would you cheat in an examination if you thought you would get away with it?  
a) Yes      b) No      c) Possibly
- 6 How do you feel about credit cards?  
a) They are great as I can get everything I want  
b) They can be risky and land you in debt  
c) They are good, if used carefully
- 7 If you are set a new challenge do you  
a) Wait for someone else to do it  
b) Always have a go, whatever the outcome  
c) Sometimes have a go, depending what the challenge is
- 8 If someone has been wronged  
a) Do you risk yourself and stand up for them  
b) Keep quiet  
c) Only stand up for them if they are a close friend
- 9 Will you try anything once?  
a) Yes      b) Sometimes      c) No

Work out for score on the next page



Question	Answer A	Answer B	Answer C	Your Points
1	3	1	2	
2	1	3	2	
3	1	2	3	
4	3	2	1	
5	3	1	2	
6	3	1	2	
7	1	3	2	
8	3	1	2	
9	3	1	2	
<b>Your Total</b>				

**If you scored 20-27 you are a risk taker.**

Risk taking can be great in some circumstances but land you in big trouble in others. You should think carefully to see if you are taking a 'wise' risk. People like you often prefer to be their own boss because you like to be in control of a situation, but are also not afraid of difficult situations and new challenges.

**If you scored 14-19 you take some risks**

You take some risks, but normally think before you act. You tend to take a calculated risk and only do something if you think it will pay off.

**If you scored 9-13 you are NOT a risk taker**

You are risk averse. You would rather play it safe. It is sometime very wise to be risk averse, but sometimes the best things in life come when you do take a risk.

## Character and Risk

Now you know your attitude to risk, explain how this will help you to have a successful future:



My attitude to risk will help me be successful because?

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In what circumstances would you always take a risk?

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In what circumstances would you never take a risk?

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## Activity 8: Saving Our Future

Design a poster in the space below that will encourage others to think about how to save the planet for the future.



# What Does it Mean?

## Important words

### Character

is who you are. It is what makes you.....you. It is what you believe in and how you act with others and when on your own. It is your values and your virtues.

### Character trait

a feature of an individual or group of people, it tells you about their personality.

### Virtue

a quality that is considered desirable in a person, all the good things about you that can be used to describe your character

### The Eight Character Traits

#### Being determined

the ability to keep going whatever happens

#### Having a dream

having an aspiration, ambition or goal

#### Having courage

the ability to do the right thing even when it is difficult

#### Having patience

The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious.

#### Helping others

Make it easier or possible for someone to do something by offering them help

#### Saving for the future

the quality of using money and other resources carefully and not wastefully

#### Thinking creatively

the use of imagination or original ideas to create something new

#### Working together

the combined action of a group, especially when effective and efficient

### Other Character Traits

#### Ambitious

a person with a strong desire to want to achieve something or reach a certain goal

#### Anxious

a person that is often worried that something may go wrong or not as planned

#### Charismatic

a character trait that includes traits such as leadership, charm and persuasiveness, an ability to inspire other people. You might often hear people say that a certain person is a charismatic leader; it means that people are naturally drawn to them, they are inspiring.

#### Compassionate

a person with the desire to help others

#### Delayed gratification

the ability of a person to wait for something that they want and not get it straight away

#### Doggedness

determined in effort, a very determined person

#### Endurance

finishing an unpleasant or difficult activity or process without giving up

#### Fortitude

being courageous or brave in the face of something difficult, painful or scary

#### Frugal

being very careful with your money, buying only things that are needed

#### Honesty

the ability to be truthful, sincere and fair

#### Humble

to feel that you are no more important than anyone else no matter what the situation, even you are the Queen or richest person in the world

#### Humility

the ability to be modest and respectful

#### Innovative

a person that starts something new, creates something or comes up with new ideas or ways to do something

**Inspirational**

making you feel hopeful or encouraged

**Integrity**

the possession of firm principles, for example if you are willing to do the right thing – even if nobody is watching

**Optimistic**

being positive and confident about what will happen

**Prudent**

acting with and showing care for the future, a person who is careful and sensible

**Resilient**

the ability to recover quickly from something, for example change, misfortune, illness

**Risk averse**

the dislike of, and desire, to avoid any type of risk

**Sense of humour**

the ability to face danger, difficulty, uncertainty and fear

**Tenacious**

a person that has an opinion in a determined way

**Thrifty**

a person that is careful with money, avoids waste

**Tolerance**

the ability to be able to accept difference

**Will power**

ability to control your own thoughts and how you behave

**Other words you may not know****Academic**

relating to school or higher education

**Aspiration**

a strong desire to achieve something

**Audit**

looking at previous records to see if they are correct

**Credit card**

a card issued by a bank for the purchase of items on credit – money that a person does not physically have but they are borrowing from a bank and will pay interest on (a percentage of extra money on top of what they are paying for an item)

**Entrepreneur**

a person who organises and works in a business, and takes on a financial (money) risk doing so.

**Humiliation**

to feel very embarrassed or ashamed

**Mentor**

a person who advises and guides people

**Personal statement**

a piece of writing about you to describe your character, what you are good at and your passion, normally to give to universities or potential employers.

**Philanthropist**

a person who makes charitable donations to help others, in time or money

**Self-reflection**

to think about yourself and reflect on who you are

**Reflect**

to think about

**Resources**

an available supply that can

be drawn on when needed, for example a natural resource is a resource supplied by nature including water, wood and air. Vocational providing skills and education that prepare you for a job

**Volunteer**

a person who does something without receiving money for their work or being forced to do it, normally involves helping other people in some way

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Meadowhead School, Sheffield  
Sattley School, Birmingham

For more information about the My Character Project or the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, please contact [t.j.harrison@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.harrison@bham.ac.uk) or see [www.jubileecentre.ac.uk](http://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk).

