

## Worksheet 1

# The White Mouse

## Know your '-isms'

*The Nazis had come to power in Germany and fascism (an extremist movement which celebrated authoritarianism and military power) was infecting Italy, Spain and other countries. People were beginning to talk of war.*

The suffix '-ism' can be used at the end of a word to indicate that the word represents a system of beliefs (doctrine) about something, often based on religion or politics. Fascism was based on the belief that a government should be controlled by one powerful person (a dictator), preventing any opposition or freedom of speech by the people of that country.

**Task 1:** Match the 'ism' words in the boxes below with their definitions:

<i>ageism</i>	<i>atheism</i>	<i>creationism</i>
<i>deism</i>	<i>egotism</i>	<i>fatalism</i>
<i>feminism</i>	<i>humanitarianism</i>	<i>idealism</i>
<i>jingoism</i>	<i>materialism</i>	<i>multiculturalism</i>
<i>perfectionism</i>	<i>racism</i>	<i>skepticism</i>

1. A belief that money and possessions are to be valued above all else: \_\_\_\_\_
2. A doctrine that advocates equal rights for women: \_\_\_\_\_
3. The belief that events are predestined and unable to be altered: \_\_\_\_\_
4. A doctrine dedicated to improving the lives and welfare of others: \_\_\_\_\_
5. The belief that different cultures can live peacefully together: \_\_\_\_\_
6. To discriminate against people based on their age: \_\_\_\_\_
7. To believe in God but not organised religion: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Believing things to be perfect rather than how they really are: \_\_\_\_\_
9. A belief that things should always be done to a very high standard: \_\_\_\_\_
10. An extreme, fanatical belief that your country is always the best: \_\_\_\_\_
11. To believe that God created the world as told in the Bible: \_\_\_\_\_
12. An exaggerated belief in your own self-importance: \_\_\_\_\_
13. The belief that there is no God: \_\_\_\_\_
14. To discriminate against people of a different race: \_\_\_\_\_
15. To doubt or disbelieve certain people and/or institutions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 2:** Like fascism, other types of governments that use the suffix 'ism' are communism, totalitarianism and republicanism. Research the belief systems behind these forms of government and give examples of where and when they have been used in history.

### Challenge!

Can you pronounce 'antidisestablishmentarianism'? To which belief system does it refer?

### Extension Activities:

- Research the type of government in your country. Write an information report about this type of government

**OR**

- Write a persuasive text that reflects your opinion of this type of government.