

YOUNG PERSONS' LEAFLET

Ideas and activities for young people with a vision for World Peace, today and always

Footsteps of Peace

Take a long roll of wallpaper lining and unfurl it the length of the classroom.

Everyone finds a partner. One of you will stand on the paper while the other draws round their shoes, then swap. Make sure the feet all go in the same direction. When you have finished making the footsteps, write in one of them a quotation from a famous person about peace. Then write in the other, your pledge for the Week of Prayer for World Peace.
What can you do to uphold peace?
At the end of the week, have a class discussion about your pledges.
Did you achieve them?
What happened?
Is peace an easy process?



My Peaceful Hands

'My peaceful hands can…'

Provide each child with a piece of paper with the title 'My Peaceful Hands Can…' at the top. The child draws round their hands on the space under the title, and writes on the paper one idea for what their peaceful hands can do. (Help in the home / gently pet animals / give my friend a hug etc).

A Space for Peace

Is there a place in your classroom or home that you can turn into a quiet place for peace? Can you make a small display of books, pictures, cushions and items that help people remember peace? Could you hang a piece of cloth over the area to create a peace tent? How often would you visit this space, and what would you do there?



You can find some ideas for peace items and artworks in this leaflet.



A Peace Pebble

Buddha said, 'Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.'

What would your word or message for peace be?

Collect smooth pebbles, take one and write or draw your message/word for peace on it, using a sharpie or chalk pen.

Write a Letter



Write a letter to a peacemaker.

They could be famous or someone you know, someone in the past, the present or even a peacemaker of the future.

You could let them know what inspires you about their life and work, tell them about yourself and what your choices for peace are.

A Peace Wreath

Ask the children to draw round their hands and decorate them.

Cut out the hand shapes and stick them on a circular piece of card in wreath shape.

If you look on Pinterest under 'children's handprint wreath' there are some colourful ideas to inspire you.



Two Thought-Provoking Stories

The Peace Child

'The Peace Child' is a legend from Papua New Guinea.

When warring tribes made peace, they exchanged a child. The children would grow up with the others' tribe and if, in future, conflict threatened between the tribes again, those children would be sent to negotiate. They saw both sides of the story. Such a child was called a 'Peace Child'.

The Two Champions

There were once two countries; one worshipped the sun and the other worshipped the moon.

They went to war over their differences, but it was agreed that instead of their armies fighting, they would each send a champion to represent their country.

The two champions fought all day and by evening they were exhausted and collapsed on the ground, calling a truce till the next day.

As they lay there they began to talk, first with hatred, but then with increasing interest in each other's lives. They talked all night.

When morning came, they faced each other again; but they could not fight. You cannot fight someone when you know their story.



What can you do with these stories?

Suggestions:
A class discussion

Improvised play

Puppet show

Cartoon



Peace Makers/Peace Breakers

Research influential people of the past. Discuss what makes them peacemakers or breakers? What do you do in your life that makes and breaks peace?

Here are some ideas…

Malala Yousafzai

Mahatma Gandhi

Abraham Lincoln

Catherine the Great

Nelson Mandela

Lord Louis Mountbatten

St Francis of Assisi

Elie Wiesel

Mother Teresa

'Abdu'l-Bahá

George Fox

Mohamed Anwar El Sadat

You might like to visit the website http://library.thinkquest.org/TQ0312702/

Peace greetings



Many cultures and religions have developed ways to greet one another peacefully, with words and gestures.

Have a look at and test out some of the ideas below, and working in pairs, develop your own peace greeting in word and gesture. Show your greeting to another pair and see how they respond.

Ideas (Words)

Hawaiian: *Aloha*—affection, love, peace, compassion, mercy, goodbye, and hello
Hebrew: *Shalom, Shalom Aleichem*—Peace to you; the response is *Aleichem Shalom*—unto you, peace
Irish Gaelic: *Dia dhuit*—God be with you), *Dia is Muire dhuit*—God and Mary be with you this the usual response to *Dia dhuit*
Islamic: *Assalamu alaikum* or *Salamu Alaikum*—Peace be upon you; the response is *Wa'laikum As'salaam*
Punjabi greeting of Sikhism: *Sat Sri Akal*—He/She Be Blessed Who says Truth is God
Tibetan: *Tashi Delek*—May everything be well
Baha'i : *Alláh'u'Abhá—God is All Glorious*. The response is *Alláh'u'Abhá*

Ideas (Gestures)

Bowing, Cheek kissing, High five, Pressing noses, Handshake, Hand on heart, Hat raising, Hat tipping, Hug, Kowtow (Chinese, the act of deep respect shown by kneeling and bowing so low as to touch the head to the ground.), Namasté, Fist pound (two individuals touch fists), Waving

Face painting design



Many tribes paint their faces before going to war.

Make a face painting design for peace.

Discuss how you would go to peace.

Poster



Imagine you work for an advertising agency. Design a poster promoting a very desirable product, 'Peace'.

How would you persuade people that they really wanted it?

Send us your poster. We could choose one to promote the Week of Prayer for World Peace!

Floating prayers

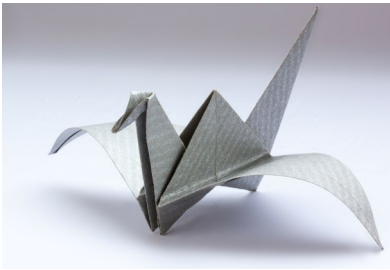


You need thin paper and waterproof 'sharpie' type pens.

Draw a small flower or star shape on the paper.

Cut it out and in the middle of the paper write your prayer, or the word 'peace'. Fold the petals or the point of the star inwards around the middle where the prayer is written. Float the prayer papers in a paddling pool or bath. Watch the petals or star points open and your prayer/words be revealed.

The Story of Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes



You can watch a beautiful video (4.40 mins)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcsKcgEtlNc
It tells the story of how Sadako Sasaki, while in hospital with life threatening leukaemia caused by an atomic bomb explosion, wanted to fold a thousand paper cranes. The origami crane as a symbol of peace is a legacy to her will to end suffering and establish peace.
The artist who paints the picture of Sadako Sasaki in the video is called Steve Simon, and he has also painted 33 other portraits of people who promoted peace. You can find out more about his portraits at
www.thegreatpeacemakers.com

Here are some resources of origami paper crane folding:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gyh3kcLuqrc
https://www.1000cranesofhope.com/pdf/How_To_Make_a_Crane.pdf



Peace limerick

There was a young man from Bombay
Whose ideas had plenty of sway
He said 'Stop all those wars
You terrible bores
And let us have peace everyday!'

Compose one of your own….

Discussion

Is the idea of peace old fashioned or modern?
Has war worked for mankind over all these years?
Should our ideas of war and peace be reviewed?
What is the best way you have found to sort out differences of opinion or contentious issues?

Do you think any of the following could be used to prevent war…
Sport
The Arts
Prayer
The Natural World

Tech for Peace

If you could design a smart phone app that promotes peace, how would it work?

Many computer games promote shooting and war. How would you change them so that they promote peace?

Can you think of any other ways that technology could be used to enable peaceful choices?

