



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resource 105.A

Gather

Social responsibility



John Woolman 1720 – 1772



Elizabeth Fry 1780 – 1845



Margaret Fell 1614 – 1702



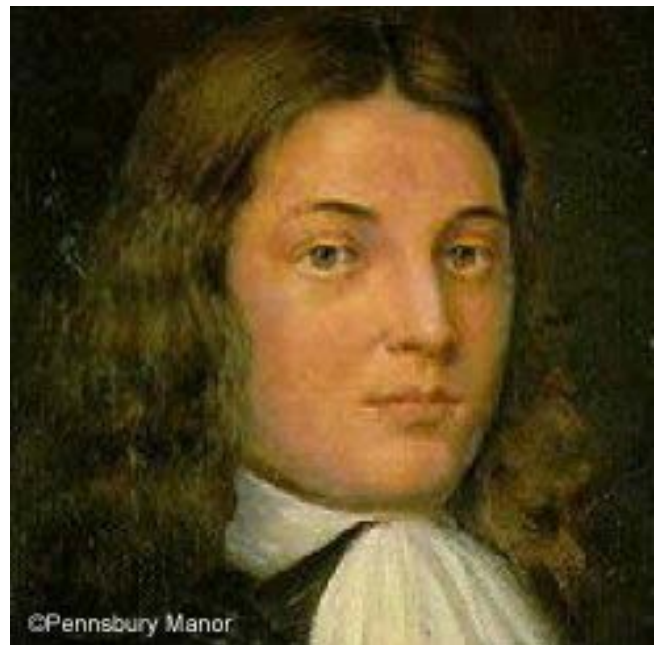
Jocelyn Burnell 1943 –



Diana and John



Joseph Rowntree 1836 – 1925



William Penn 1644 - 1718



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resources 105.B

Engage

Story of John Woolman



Once there was a man who lived in America. He was a Quaker and his name was John Woolman. He was thoughtful and kind.

He lived a simple life and cared about everyone and everything. He wore clothes that were not dyed a colour, especially blue colours dyed with indigo. This dye was dangerous and could make children and slaves who worked with the dyed cloth very ill.

John also believed no one could own another person, no one could be a slave. He knew that people in Britain and America had slaves. They did not always treat their slaves very kindly. Some of these people were Quakers. Owning a slave seemed to be against Quaker beliefs.

During his life he had travelled through America even though he had been ill when he was a young man and not very strong. He wanted to tell people that keeping slaves was wrong

One day John Woolman said to his wife:

"Sarah, I must cross the Atlantic Ocean and visit Friends in London to tell them that it is wrong to keep slaves and buy goods made by slaves who are not paid to do this".

He asked a friend called Stephen Comfort to look after his family.

John found a ship he liked and went aboard.

The journey was long and dangerous. There were many storms.

After a long time John Woolman arrived in Britain. He went to London where Friends were gathered for Yearly Meeting.

The door opened and John stood there in his hat and travel stained clothes all the way from America. He placed his travelling minute on the table and the clerk read it.

It said; "It is wrong to keep slaves and buy goods made by slaves who are not paid to do this."

At first Quakers were not very accepting of John Woolman's minute and an elder spoke about this. John sat in silence and wept. He then stood and said he had not finished the work God had set him to do. He would not visit Friends again until the meeting agreed he could. Meantime he would find work to support himself.

The silence deepened and then people understood John and the elder got up again and welcomed John and his message.

John Woolman visited Friends all over England to tell them it was wrong to keep slaves and to buy goods made by slaves who were not paid for their work.

He visited those in trouble and refused to travel in a coach because of the ill treatment of the post boys and the horses.

He never returned to America but died of smallpox in York.



Images from the Godly Play story of John Woolman, available to borrow see www.quaker.org.uk/children-and-young-people/work-quaker-setting/resources-all-age#heading-1



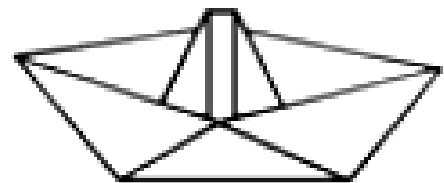
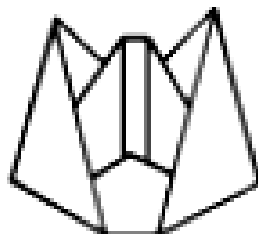
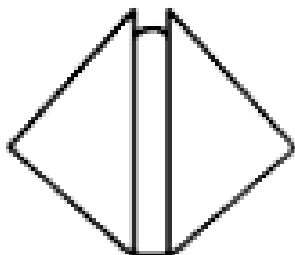
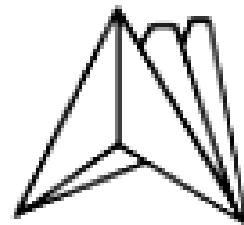
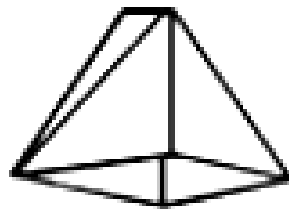
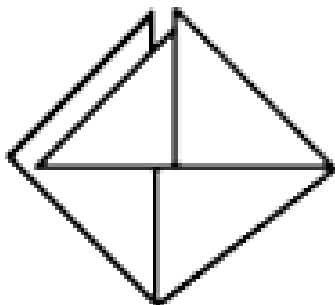
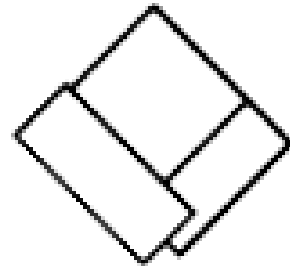
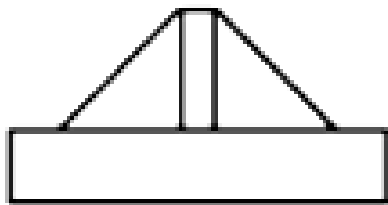
Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work
Respond

Additional resources 105.C
The story of John Woolman



Origami Boat Instructions





Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resources 105.D

Respond

The story of Percy Cleave



Back to Back listening

An exercise in pairs to explore the effect of body position in listening.

1. Participants sit opposite each other and speak for one minute each on a simple topic like their favourite game, book or T.V. programme. (Adult to time this)
2. Next repeat the exercise but this time the speaker faces the back of the listener's head. It might be best to choose another topic to speak about and each person speaks for one minute
3. Finally the pairs of children sit back to back with their heads touching and repeat the exercise as above

After all have spoken, talk about how it felt to talk in the different positions. When did you feel listened to? Do you ever feel you are talking to the back of someone's head? What does it feel like if you can't see the person you are talking to?

Three tokens

Give each participant three tokens such as pebbles, beans or sticks. Participants sit in a circle and are invited to speak about an interesting topic such as what they did yesterday, a holiday, their favourite food etc. However they can only speak when they put a token in the centre of the circle. Encourage children to listen as well as speak and once they have used all their tokens they cannot speak and need simply to listen.

Circle Storytelling

Participants sit in a circle. Explain they are going to make up their own story. Someone starts the story and says a couple of sentences and then move round the circle, each person adding their part of the story. The aim of this exercise is for the story to move forwards, to be engaging and exciting. This requires that everyone listens carefully, so that their part of the story connects to the previous contributions.

Afterwards talk about the story. Did it go as you expected? Might things have worked out differently? Did you listen carefully enough that you could now retell the story?

Listening to a story

Choose a favourite story and ask the children to listen carefully as you read it. Afterwards try any of the following to see how well they listened to the story:

- Reflect on the story and ask children if they have had a similar experience
- Dramatise the story in small groups
- Choose to be a particular person in the story and in pairs take it in turns to tell the story from the chosen characters point of view.