

PEACE EDUCATION NETWORK

Teach Peace Pack

Assembly: What is peace?



Aim: to encourage children to think about what peace means and how we can achieve it.

Planning/Preparation: you will need the 'What is peace?' slideshow presentation from the Peace Education Network website www.peace-education.org.uk.

The orange squares ■ in the text refer to these slides.

The four quiz pictures ■ slides 2, 4, 5 and 7, are gradually uncovered by repeatedly clicking the mouse (be prepared to do quite a lot of clicking!).

1 Quiz. ■ Slide 1

A series of pictures will be slowly uncovered (as you click). Ask the children to put their hands up when they think they know what the picture is of...

- Slide 2: Picture of a dove
- Slide 3: What can you see? (click through to reveal the image)
- Slide 4: Peace sign with fingers
- Slides 5 and 6: Paper origami cranes [look for answers like birds, paper birds, origami]
- Slides 7 and 8: Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) symbol [look for answers like peace symbol]

2 CND Symbol

Ask the children: Does anyone know where the CND symbol comes from?

Explain that the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament campaigns to get rid of nuclear bombs, the most powerful bombs that exist. The sign symbolises N and D in semaphore, for Nuclear Disarmament ■ Slide 8.

3 Peace

Does anyone know what one word connects these four symbols?

- Slide 9: [Look for the answer PEACE. If more help is needed then...] It has five letters...
- Slide 10: It begins with P
- Slide 11.
- Slide 12: What is peace? Explore with the children what they think peace means. Ask: What is peace? Give them a few seconds to consider the question and ask them to discuss ideas with the person next to them. [Take feedback after a minute or two].

4 Definitions of peace

Explain that many people have tried to define peace over the years...

- Slide 13: Ask: Does anyone know who this is?
- Slide 14: Martin Luther King – American who worked for fairness for people of all races in the USA.
- Slide 15: He said "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."

5 Children's definitions

Children in Year 1 and 2 doing a 'peace week' had their own ideas about what peace is ...

■ Slide 16: They said: "Peace is helping my friends when they need me."

■ Slide 17: And "Peace is when everyone cooperates and listens to each other."

6 Gandhi

■ Slide 18: *Finally, ask who is this?* – Gandhi.

■ Slide 19: He said "*Be the change you want to see in the world.*" What do you think he meant by that? [Look for answers about if we want peace then we need to be peaceful, if we want fairness we need to treat people fairly, etc.]

7 Conclusion: Peace and justice

We have talked about peace and what peace is. A peaceful world is one where there is justice; where everyone is treated fairly, where there is no violence, and where we are able to live without fear. And that last quote, from Gandhi, reminds us that if we want peace then we need to be peaceful people and to work for peace.

Follow up activities/resources:

- Children can write or draw 'Peace is...' booklets/messages. Ask the students where they feel peaceful and create a 'peaceful place' in your classroom/school where you can display the messages.

The Peace Book by Todd Parr, 2008, helps 5-7 year olds relate to the concept of peace.

- For activities to create a more peaceful school, see 'Learning for Peace – developing outstanding SMSC in Primary Schools' from www.peacemakers.org.uk or email office@peacemakers.org.uk
- If you live in Wales, see www.walesforpeace.org to find out about local peacemakers.
- Go to www.peacefulschools.org.uk to join the Peaceful Schools Movement.
- Other useful books:
 - Can You Say Peace?* by Karen Katz, 2006. A simple book which introduces children to saying 'peace' in different languages.
 - What does peace feel like?* by Vladimir Radunsky, 2004. Children describe what peace might feel, taste or sound like.
 - The Story of Ferdinand* by Munro Leaf, 2011. Ferdinand is a bull who would rather sit and smell the flowers than butt heads.
 - War and Peas* by Michael Foreman, 2002. Underlying messages about helping others, and sharing what you have.
- For more children's books see <http://ukchildrensbooks.co.uk>.