



Peace Day Activity Ideas for Middle and High School Students ***2014 Global Theme: "Right of Peoples To Peace"***

The United Nations International Day of Peace (Peace Day) is observed worldwide on **September 21**. Peace Day provides an opportunity for students to engage in peace and non-violence activities, and to express their visions of peace – personal, local and/or global. Peace Day activities are flexible and can connect with multiple curriculum areas and anti-bullying programs. Observing Peace Day is a unifying way to begin the year! **Since Peace Day 2014 occurs on a Sunday, we encourage schools and after-school programs to facilitate peace related activities anytime September 15th – 25th.**

For more info about Peace Day and many Peace Day activity ideas, go to: www.peacedayphilly.org. Share your activities on our Facebook Page, and e-mail us at contact@peacedayphilly.org!

GENERAL

- ✚ Observe a minute of silence at noon in the spirit of unity and with other youth around the world. This is a global activity that takes place on 9/21 in all time zones. You can say to yourself silently "Breathe In World, Breathe Out Peace."
- ✚ Invite someone who is doing non-violence or environmental work in the region or somewhere in the world for a special assembly or interactive workshop. What are the challenges to creating more peaceful and sustainable communities? What kind of actions can make a difference?
- ✚ Bring in a guest to teach basic mindfulness skills for stress reduction. You can also download a peace breathing activity and learn more about the benefits of mindfulness for students from the *CHILDREN & YOUTH* page of www.peacedayphilly.org.
- ✚ Learn about the historic March on Washington 50 years ago and the Principles of Non-Violence of Martin Luther King Jr. Create an assembly, artwork, essay, song or poem inspired by this historic march and/or Dr. King's philosophy and practice of non-violence.
- ✚ Plant a peace pole (www.peacepoles.com), peace rocks or a peace garden on your school grounds.
- ✚ Peace Day is an important day worldwide for humanitarian aid, community development & service. Organize or take part in a service project! Youth can engage in a wide range of projects including school grounds clean up, services to people locally/globally, or the environment. Students can also raise funds for local or international causes.

ART BASED

- ✚ Go to THE ARTS Page of our "What Can YOU Do?" Section or www.peacedayphilly.org
- ✚ Create Peace Cranes, place them in your environment as a reminder of the unifying goal of peace and/or share with others near or across the world! More info: <http://peacecraneproject.org>
- ✚ Make and display "Pinwheels for Peace" outside your school, with art images on one side and wishes for peace on the other. For info go to: www.pinwheelsforpeace.com.

- ✚ Make a painting, collage, mural or drawing of children around the world, or of an issue related to the environment. What responsibility do we have for children in the world and our environment?
- ✚ Create anti-violence posters. "Practice Respect," "Speak Up Against Violence," "Be a Peacemaker" and "Bully-Free Zone" are possible themes.
- ✚ Chalk 4 Peace: Use sidewalk chalk to draw images of peace on your playground or sidewalks outside your school. Invite students from a nearby school to work with you: <http://www.chalk4peace.org>.
- ✚ Create and Display Peace Flags - http://thepeaceflagproject.org/?page_id=633
- ✚ Have a peace art exhibition! Go to wppspeacepals.org/activities/ to download free activities & to view details about the Peace Pals International Art Exhibition held annually (deadline 6/30).

WRITING BASED

- ✚ Have each student write a Peace Pledge. Students should be encouraged to put their peace pledge where they can see it daily. Students can journal-write about the experience of "living their pledge."
- ✚ Express "What is Peace to me?" or "How I can create Peace in my world?" in writing and/or art. Consider different levels of peace (individual, family, community, global).
- ✚ Write peace poetry using haikus or free prose, or have a special Peace Poetry Jam assembly.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSIONS

- ✚ Watch this Global Citizen video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yio6kQrlyQ> and discuss what it means to be a global citizen.
- ✚ Learn about the writing, speeches and actions of peacemakers such as Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, Jane Goodall, Gandhi, etc. Students can share what they learned about their peacemakers.
- ✚ FOR OLDER STUDENTS: learn about child soldiers. Review facts about child soldiers: <http://www.dosomething.org/tipsandtools/11-facts-about-child-soldiers> & watch interview with a UNICEF Ambassador and former child soldier: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGpZSOmKzrc>.
- ✚ Learn about the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, and how in some parts of the world children are not able to exercise those rights Go to: <http://www.youthforhumanrights.org/what-are-human-rights.html> for more info and short videos.

SPORTS

- ✚ Unite with young people around the world by playing soccer game (or any sport!) in a spirit of unity & good sportsmanship. "One Day One Goal video": <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbjcr8SPv4Q>.

PERFORMING ARTS & VIDEO

- ✚ In small groups, create a song, dance, musical or play inspired by a non-violence/peace theme.
- ✚ Explore: <http://www.pacer.org/bullying> and <http://www.stopbullying.gov>. In small groups, create and perform (or videotape) anti-bullying Public Service Announcements.