



Peace Day Activity Ideas for Middle & High School Students ***UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE SEPTEMBER 21***

2015 Global Theme: Partnerships for Peace - Dignity for All

The United Nations International Day of Peace (Peace Day) is observed worldwide on September 21. Peace Day provides a powerful opportunity for students to engage in peace and nonviolence activities, and to express their visions for 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 powerful way to begin the year and to open up dialogue about interpersonal respect and local/global citizenship.

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. Join the peace wave! You can say to yourself silently “Breathe In World, Breathe Out Peace.”

Invite someone who is doing nonviolence, social justice or environmental work for a special assembly or interactive workshop. What are the challenges to creating more peaceful 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 PDPs website.

Plant a peace pole (www.peacepoles.com), peace rocks or a peace garden on your school grounds.

ART BASED

Create Peace Cranes - writing a poem or message of peace before folding - and give them to others or place them in your environment as a reminder of the unifying goal of peace. 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: www.pinwheelsforpeace.com.

Learn about the Principles of Nonviolence developed by Martin Luther King Jr. Create an assembly, artwork, essay, song, rap or poem inspired by these principles.

Learn about and discuss how nonviolent action is being used today for situations of injustice.

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.

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://bit.ly/1D3wnyR>

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 Peace Poetry Jam assembly.

INTERNET ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSIONS

Watch this Global Citizen video <http://bit.ly/1FYBEZo> and discuss what it means to be a global citizen.

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://bit.ly/1O6f4rv> 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: <http://bit.ly/1D3vshV>.