

# Peace Lesson

## Peace from Pieces

### Introduction:

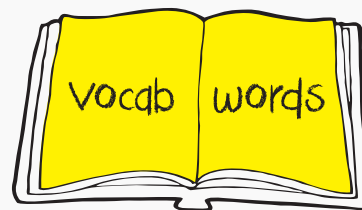
Sherrell Bostic and Mariah Rivera are best friends who sometimes must work hard to maintain a peaceful friendship.

Essential  
Question:

What are the  
symbols of peace?



- Symbols of peace (a few are provided; others easily found online)
- Colored paper (variety of colors — can be scraps)
- Scissors (one pair per student)
- Bowls or boxes or plates for collecting the cut pieces of paper
- Glue/glue sticks
- Peaceful music (optional)
- Outline of a peace sign




conflict

peace

resolve

# Pre-viewing:

- Show a picture of the peace sign: 
- Tell the Peace sign history story:
  - Semaphore is the way sailors on ships used to talk to each other using flags. They would hold two large flags, one in each hand, and they positioned the flags to form signs for different letters. The flag positions did not look like the letters of the alphabet, and so the sailors had to learn the flag alphabet.
  - One British sailor was named Gerald Holtom, and after the war was over, he became an artist. He was asked to help design a picture to publicize “Nuclear Disarmament,” which means all countries would give up their very dangerous nuclear weapons and be at peace.
  - He thought about the N and the D in the phrase, and he thought back to his semaphore flags.
  - To make an N with semaphore flags, a person stands straight and holds their arms in an upside-down V — two arms pointed down at 45 degree angles.
  - To make a D with semaphore flags, the person holds one flag straight up and the other flag straight down, making a straight line.
  - He drew both of these letters on his paper, just using lines, overlapped them, and then he drew a circle around it.
  - He brought his picture to the *Peace News* in London, and a peace sign was born!

*(Story adapted from gotquestions.org)*

- Have students work with a partner to create the semaphore peace sign with their bodies. One will be the N (down-ward V) and one will be the D (straight arms, one up, one down).
- Tell students they were just two people working together to create peace — that is what they will see in the video called “Peace.”

# Discussion Questions:

- How do Sherrell and Mariah resolve conflicts or deal with any problems that pop up in their friendship?
- Think of a time when you had a disagreement with your best friend. Were you able to work out your problems? Why or why not?
- What are the benefits of resolving conflicts with your friends and your family?
- What are some ways in which you maintain peace in your personal relationships?

Notes:

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# Procedure:

## Introduction: Symbols of peace

- Remind students of how they explored how the famous peace sign was created before watching the video about peace. (If not, do so at this point.)
- Show different symbols or signs that communicate peace.



- Discuss the meaning of each sign
  - The V sign (always face the palm out toward the audience) can mean victory, but in America in the 1960's, it came to mean peace.
  - The dove with an olive branch or an olive branch alone is based on the Biblical story of Noah. Near the end of the time of the flood, Noah sent out a dove to see if the waters had receded. The dove returned with an olive branch which signaled land. Noah took this to mean that his God was at peace with human-kind. There are many other religious symbols of peace.
  - Three circles, two on the bottom and one on top, create the Celtic symbol of peace.

# Procedure Continued:

## Direct Instructions (I do)

- Explain how there is another word that sounds exactly the same but is spelled differently and means something different as well: piece.
- 'P-I-E-C-E' means a part of something. Sometimes a piece is broken off or cut off. Sometimes it means the whole has not been completed yet.
- Explain how the class is going to create a work of art about peace using pieces of paper.
- Show the supplies: paper, scissors, containers, and the blank peace symbol.
- Demonstrate cutting (for some, this might mean reviewing the use of scissors), grouping or classifying the pieces (will you do it by size, color, or shape?), and then gluing pieces of paper to the peace sign. The goal is to fit the colored paper pieces into the peace sign so that when done, everyone will know this is a sign of peace.
- Ask: How will we do this peacefully? Should we argue over the colors? How can we keep peace at the table during this project?

## Guided Exploration (We do)

- Distribute colored paper, scissors, and containers for the pieces to each table and ask students to begin cutting the paper into different pieces.
- Have each table group decide how they will use the containers to collect and/or classify the pieces.
- Encourage them to do this peacefully.

**NOTE** Peaceful music can be played during the *We do* and *You do* times.

# Procedure Continued:

## Independent Practice (You do)

- Decide how you would like students to create their peace sign. Do you want each student to have his/her own peace sign, or do you want to have one peace sign per each table/group?
- Use glue to adhere the pieces of paper to the peace symbol.
- Ask students: How are you deciding which piece of paper to glue on your symbol? Are you sharing your pieces? How are we working peacefully?

## Conclusion

- Ask children to discuss the qualities of a peaceful classroom and rate the level of peace during the project.
- Post their peace signs around the school and ask students how they will help others in the school understand the peace signs made from pieces.

Notes:

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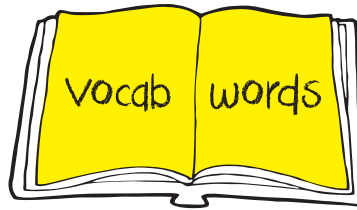
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# Vocabulary & Definitions



**conflict (n.)** Definition: a state of disagreement or argument among people, groups, countries, etc.

Context: Nika and Jarrod's mother resolved their conflict concerning who should perform which chore by asking Jarrod to wash the dishes while Nika folds the laundry.

**peace (n.)** Definition: being calm; getting along with others; the situation in which no conflict, dispute or argument exists among people, countries, etc.

Context: Some children living in the Middle East have never experienced a time of peace within their countries.

**resolve (v.)** Definition: to find a satisfactory way of dealing with a problem or difficulty; to settle

Context: Best friends may argue from time to time, but it is important for them to try and resolve their conflicts immediately.

# Symbols of Peace



PEACE

LOVE

