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# TEACHING IDEAS USING PEACE PAX

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## **For Schools, Peace Education, Community Work and Self-development**

These Teaching ideas are offered, not as an exhaustive list, but as a springboard to stimulate a flow of endless possibilities for reflecting on the theme of Peace, with people of any age. Teachers, youth workers, community leaders and group facilitators are invited to select and adapt activities so that they are relevant to different target groups. Whilst the following section is listed under curriculum areas for use in schools, it is also suitable for wider application.

### **Cross-Curricula Teaching Activities**

Many of these activities, although allocated to a specific subject area, also cover aspects of several areas of learning.

Areas of Learning and Development for the Foundation Stage are indicated in italics: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (P.S.E.), Communication, Language and Literacy (C.L.L.), Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy (P.S.R.N.), Knowledge and Understanding of the World (K.U.W.), Creative Development (C.D.), Physical Development (P.D.).

### **English/C.L.L.**

- Read or learn and discuss the poems 'My Universal Dream' by Lizzie Davies and 'The White Dove' by Margaret Gibney.
- Write or tell a story of Forgiveness, Peace or Reconciliation.

### **Maths (P.S.R.N.)**

- Create a CANDALA (focus on The Circle/geometry/symmetrical shape, number and pattern)

### **Science (K.U.W.)**

- Plant for Peace. Make a timeline of the growth cycle of an acorn through to an oak tree.

### **Food Technology/K.U.W.**

- Make PAX Bread to share, eat or to use in the creation of a CANDALA.

### **Art/Design Technology/C.D.**

- Create an individual, group or class CANDALA. Encourage the children to use the ideas within it to express their own interpretation of Peace in a variety of media.
- Create a display using the 'Decorate your Environment' material. Use The Acorn motif which symbolizes the growth of Peace PAX around the world.
- Illustrate The Circle of Peace Dedication.

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## **I.T.**

- Design a CANDALA on your computer/interactive White board (I.W.B.)
- Use the internet and social networks to link up with others Peacemakers around the world.
- Contact a Peace PAX pal and share stories about the work you are doing for peace. (NB within schools adhere to ICT policy)
- Send us your CANDALA designs **info@theglobalcircleofpeace.com**
- Make a video of how you have used the Peace PAX material and put it on YouTube to inspire others. Take photographs and send these and your designs and a short News Story to: **info@theglobalcircleofpeace.com**

Please reference: CANDALA /Peace PAX and notify us at the email address above so that we can share your creative efforts with our global network of Peacemakers

## **Music/C.D.**

- Learn to sing the theme songs 'Peacemaker' (Roden/Davies) and 'Light a Candle in your heart' (Shirlie Roden) and the 'The Circle of Peace Dedication' chant. (Verney/Davies). Compose an original version, using the words of The Dedication chant (voice/ choir/instruments) in your own style (classical, jazz, rock, rap, folk) – Why not record it and put it on YouTube?

## **Dance/Drama/P.D.**

- Learn and perform the choreographed mime-poem 'Time for Peace on Earth' by Lizzie Davies (see Youtube video with Lizzie & Margaret).

## **R.E. /P.S.E**

Activities to encourage the children to experience a feeling of Peace:

- 'Stilling'- Encourage the children to sit very still in a space of their own – close their eyes – listen to some peaceful music.

• Use some or all of the gestures from 'Time for Peace on Earth' very slowly.

• A Time for Reflection - Silence for Peace Light a Candle for Peace

A Guided Imagery/Creative Visualisation.

- 'My Secret Garden'/'A Peaceful Place' adapted from Hammond & Hay "New Methods in R.E."

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- A Guided Imagery/Creative Visualisation.

'My Secret Garden'/'A Peaceful Place' adapted from Hammond & Hay "New Methods in R.E."

The children are invited to lie/sit very still and listen and are invited, if they wish to go on an imaginary journey. "Lie/sit very still and listen. ----- Listen to the sound of your breathing. ----- If you like, in your imagination, you can go out of the classroom and there you find a path. -----Go down the path and you will come to a wall. ----- In the wall there is a door. -----You find a key. ----- If you like you can go inside ----- into a garden a very peaceful garden ----- What does it look like? -----Look around. -----What can you see? ----- Is there anything growing in your garden? ----- Is there anything to play on? ----- Can you find a place to sit down for a while? ----- You can go and sit down if you like. ----- Have a look around. ----- Is there anything you'd like to change in your garden? -----You can change it if you want to. – It's your garden. – Spend some time in your garden. ----- You can do anything you like. -----It's time to leave the garden now. – Go to the door.- Open it. -----Lock the door behind you. ----- Come back along the path ----- and into the classroom ----- and lie/sit down. ----- Listen to the sound of your breathing again. -----When you're ready, sit up."The children may be asked if they would like to tell everyone about their garden. They could be invited to draw, paint, or model their garden.

Write a Prayer for Peace. Encourage the children to explore how they would like to become a Peacemaker. Invite them to make a personal Pledge for Peace.

## **Assemblies**

Ask the children to sit in a circle around the room/hall and create a CANDALA using symbols for 'Peace' – such as paper doves, white feathers, white flowers or the Peace PAX symbols, turquoise ribbon or The Acorn. (Candles/Tea Lights can be very effective, but be aware of Health and Safety). Light reflecting materials or LED's can be used in addition or in place of candles.

If the children have to sit facing the front, because of lack of space, build a CANDALA as a collage wall display or using an Interactive White Board (I.W.B.)

These CANDALAs could be seasonal with children contributing natural objects for the display e.g. leaves, fruits and seeds in Autumn.

Another 'Peace' Assembly could be devoted to displaying and discussing things children have made in session activities.

Create a Peace Ceremony to celebrate Peace on the International Day of Peace (21st September) or to mark another significant event, or just as a culmination of your exploration into Peace and Peace PAX.

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**Lesson Plans** – could be constructed using these activities as follows:

Learning Objective

To consider/reflect on the meaning of Peace.

(There may also be further subject specific Learning Objectives relating to the activities.)

Introduction

(Perhaps considering definitions for personal, universal and/or introducing the International Day of Peace, for example .....)

'Peace' is being calm, quiet, happy inside, contented, having an inner tranquillity – a personal 'Peace'. (Adapt for age group. – Children may be able to contribute more words.)

Peace happens when people live and work together in harmony.

The 21st September has been named 'An International Day of Peace', an opportunity for everyone to think about and work for Peace together all over the world.

See [www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org)

Perhaps a 'Stilling' activity could be used at the start of the session, or following the Introduction to enable all involved to experience a feeling of peace.

Individual/Group Work

One of the Activities, or a selection to be carried out by different groups of children, differentiated according to their needs and level of understanding and ability, could form the middle section of the session – followed by a...

Plenary

Drawing together the ideas presented through the activities...

A sequence of lessons using the activities could be planned to illustrate the theme of 'Peace' over the week preceding or following the 'International Day of Peace' (21st September) or, as a topic over a longer period.

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