

Visions of Peace

Imagination kit and study guide

The Visions of Peace Performance

In the performance you will hear various stories

From someone who argues with themselves, to the story of a Japanese girl who folds origami birds, and the story of The Heart of Glass.

The performer Leland Faulkner has collected many of these stories over the years from around the world, and although the cultures in different countries may have different points of view, they all share the concept of peace. Leland has lived and travelled to many parts of the world, and is happy that he can share the stories that show we all share in the power of dreams, imagination, and peace no matter what we look like or where we are from.

Did you know there is a difference between peace “sign” and peace “symbol”?

The Peace Sign

You’ve probably flashed a peace sign before, using your index and middle fingers to make a “V.” Though it’s called a *sign*, similar to gestures used in sign language, this one is not the actual gesture for “peace” in American Sign Language.

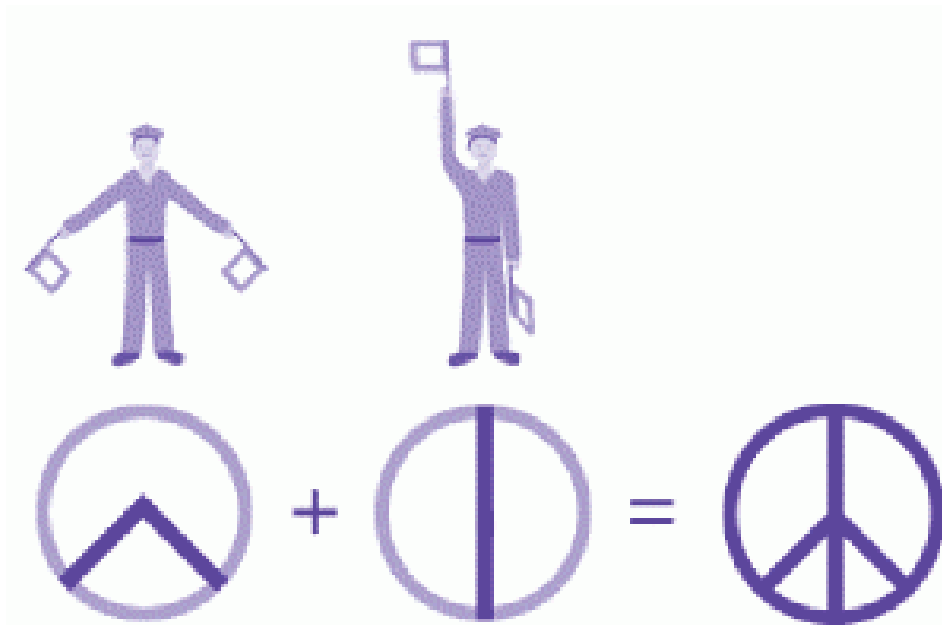
Instead, it originated as a way to show “V” for “Victory” during World War II. Later, President Richard M. Nixon famously used it also to mean “victory.” Though Nixon was a pro-war president in the 1960s and ’70s, anti-war activists at the same time co-opted the “V” sign to identify themselves as peace-seekers. This interpretation of the gesture is mostly what it is used for today. Though, if you find yourself around the Museum you might see the peace sign used as a COVID-friendly greeting!



Origins of the Peace Symbol

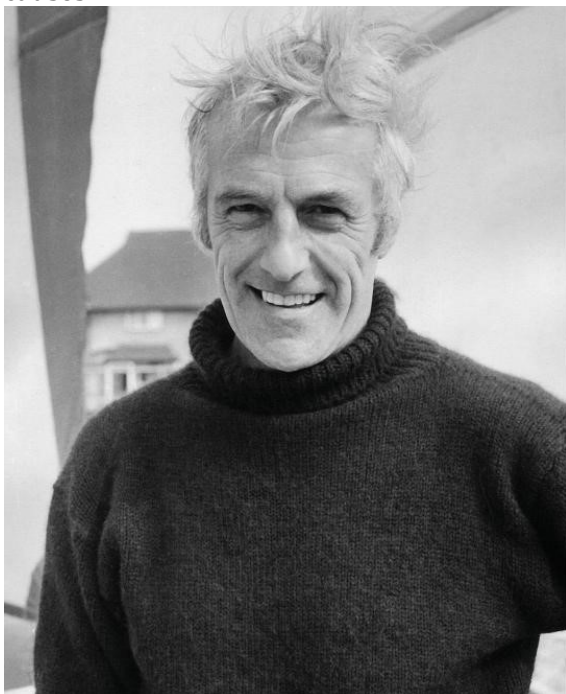
The Peace Symbol is a familiar one. With one glance its meaning is apparent, but to understand the origin of the peace symbol, we must look closer. Though this symbol is so closely associated with anti-war, its design was inspired by **naval semaphore code**.

Semaphore is traditionally employed by seafarers who use flags held in different positions to communicate across distances, such as between two ships at sea. So, how does semaphore translate into the peace symbol? Well, it’s very simple: the semaphore positions for the letters N (where the flagger stands with their arms in an inverted “V”) and D (where the flagger stands with one arm straight up above their head, and the other straight down) when combined form the inner line structure of the symbol.



Semaphore positions for “N” & “D”

At this point you may be asking: what do “N” and “D” have to do with the peace symbol? Well “N” and “D” stand for “**Nuclear Disarmament.**” Nuclear Disarmament was a movement that emerged after the Second World War. The use of nuclear warheads by the United States against Japan in World War II had proven just how catastrophic such weapons can be. Then, the Cold War brought a constant threat of nuclear destruction. The call for the disarming of nuclear weapons around the world argued that peace amongst nations could never be achieved while even just *one* of them harbored these weapons of mass destruction. So, Nuclear Disarmament, N.D., gave us the peace symbol as we know it today. In the United States. Anti-War and Civil Rights activists took on the symbol for nuclear disarmament as a symbol for all peaceful causes.



Gerald

Holton & the original peace symbol design.

Fun Fact: The designer behind the peace symbol, a British man named Gerald Holton, decided to never copyright his design so that anyone could use it free of licensing restraints. Thanks to Mr. Holton, the peace symbol will always stand as a free and accessible symbol of peace to whoever wants to use it.

Glossary words:

Miser
Empathy
Utopia
Equality
Sharing

Questions related to The Heart of Glass:

One way we can help bring peace is to have empathy for others.
In the story The Heart of Glass there is a miser.
What does it mean to be a miser?
Does the miser care about others?
What is empathy?
What happens when people don't have empathy?
In the story the miser chases away the old woman because he has no empathy. What do you think happens to the old woman? What would you do differently than the miser? Do you know any old people? How do you treat them?
What happens to the miser in the story?
What could the miser have done to change the outcome of the story?

Questions related to The Vision

In The Vision a land without pain and suffering is described. What is it called?
What makes this place special?
What makes you feel happy?
What makes you feel sad?
If you could create a place that made people happy, what would it be like?
What can you do to make the people around you feel better?

Lesson 1: Speaking Peace

Questions

Pre-Reading: Do you think peace means the same thing to every person no matter what language they speak?

Post-Reading: Ask: Why do you think all these languages have a word for peace?

Suggested Activities

Have children make their own pictures showing what peace means to them. These can be made into a class Big Book. Add the word PEACE in different languages.
Learn to say other words in the 11 languages such as HELLO, GOODBYE, and so on.
Learn to sing a song, in the native language if possible, from one or more of the countries.
Find the 11 countries represented in the book on a world map.
For older children have them research each of the 11 countries and learn something about the lives of the people there.

Related Books

Here are two books to read to follow up your *Can You Say Peace?* activities

Same, Same but Different by Jenny Sue Kostecki-Shaw

In this picture book two boys compare their everyday lives. On one side of the page we see a white American boy on the opposing page we see a dark-skinned boy from India, each doing similar things – climbing a tree, going to school, writing the alphabet.

One World, One Day by Barbara Kerley

This *National Geographic* publication features memorable photographs of children and families from all over the world playing, eating, learning, getting up, and going to bed.

Lesson 2: The Peace Wall



The Peace Wall, Belfast, Ireland

The Belfast Peace Walls are barriers that separate Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods throughout the city. They were originally built in 1969 to establish peace by separating sectarian groups. Graffiti and street art intermingle on the Peace Walls to provide color to the city while also reminding citizens and tourists of the strife of the country.

The walls were originally meant to be temporary structures. Ironically, the structures have not only stayed in place, but have increased in number. The most recent Peace Wall was constructed in 2017. There are now 59 in the city.

The Belfast City Council began a plan to remove the Peace Walls, but the vast majority of residents believe they continue to help quell violence.

Activity Purpose: To instill in students the concept of peace and how we can achieve it.

Early Kindergarten, 8:1:1 and Kindergarten

Introduction. Hold up your fingers in the V sign for peace and ask children if they know what it means. Clue them if they do not. Then we will define what we mean by peace. For this age group use the term "getting along" as a synonym.

Book to Read: Next read and discuss the book *Talk and Work It Out* by Cheri J. Meiners. Explain that everyone in the world wishes there would be peace. Together all the students in the school will build a wall of peace in the hallway.

Activity: Pass out a printed "brick" (on 1/2 sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper) and a 1/2 sheet of 9 by 12 inch red paper. Ask them to draw a picture that shows people getting along (playing and working peacefully). Then they will paste their brick on the red paper. The difference in the paper size will frame their drawing in red.

1st and 2nd Grade

Do everything the same, but have them also write a sentence on their brick starting with Peace means...

3rd to 5th grade

Do everything the same, but instead of drawing a picture they will write a paragraph about what peace means to them.

Tie into Constitution Day: Ask students what they know about the constitution. Discuss how having a constitution and Bill of Rights that guarantee freedom and fairness for all helps create an atmosphere of peace. Ask them to pretend they are a member of the senate or congress and think about what law they would make to help create world peace (possible answers: forbid wars, have people who are angry talk

out their problems, don't judge people by their skin color, religion, or ethnicity. When they have decided on a law, have them write it on their brick.

The lesson aligns with NYS standards for S.A.V.E. instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education.

The Pinwheels for Peace Activities

Pinwheels for Peace was started by two retired art teachers. Today thousands of children make pinwheels and plant them in the form of a peace sign on International Peace Day on September 21.

Students of all ages decorate a pinwheel pattern with peaceful scenes and then work together to create the right size peace sign.

Here are some guides for pinwheel directions and activities:

To watch a QuickTime movie that shows you how to make a pinwheel, click here.

<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/pinwheeltemplate.pdf>

To create your own pinwheel, download a pinwheel template, click here.

<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/pinwheeltemplate.pdf>

Thanks to Ursula Accumanno from New Jersey who came up with this alternative way to create pinwheels! See the photos below and download her directions here.

<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/Pinless.pdf>

Download a page of peace signs to use when making your pinwheels. Click here.

<http://www.pinwheelsforpeace.com/images/peace.pdf>

Rather than use pencils for the "stick" of the pinwheel, we have used plastic straws (local restaurants will likely donate them - or, you can purchase them at a "warehouse-type" store) and bamboo skewers. Insert the pinwheel pin into the straw near the top, Then bend the pointed end of the pin back into the straw.

When it comes time to "plant" the pinwheels, push the skewer into the ground and then slip the straw right over the skewer!

Video Links:

https://study.com/academy/lesson/peace-lesson-plan.html?src=ppc_adwords_nonbrand&rcntxt=aws&crt=631249708240&kwd=&kwid=dsa-1253079156202&agid=125582019081&mt=&device=c&network=g&campaign=SeoPPC&gclid=CjwKCAiAvK2bBhB8EiwAZUbP1DG04JIBYkReHU8EGR_kNB0XYa2t0wwUR4ZJG2c3P8qrFk_yFtq83RoCgXoQAvD_BwE

<https://teachpeacenow.com/music-more/origami-peace-doves/>