



***Peace Day Global Theme, 2013: “[EDUCATION FOR PEACE](#)”
Activity Ideas for Elementary Students***

The United Nations International Day of Peace (Peace Day) is a global day of ceasefire and non-violence 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 2013 occurs on a Saturday, we encourage schools and after school programs to facilitate peace related activities on anytime the week of Sept. 16th.**

For more about Peace Day: www.peacedayphilly.org & www.internationaldayofpeace.org. Please share your activities and photos on the *Peace Day Philly* Community Facebook Page, and e-mail us at contact@peacedayphilly.org.

GENERAL

- ✚ Go to www.peacedayphilly.org, the What Can YOU Do? Section and then click on the CHILDREN AND YOUTH page. Here you will find links to peace education activities, lesson plans and curricula.
- ✚ Observe a minute of silence at noon in the spirit of unity. (a global activity in all time zones.)
- ✚ Facilitate an activity/assembly that celebrates diversity at your school/around the world.
- ✚ Bring in a guest to teach basic breathing skills for stress reduction. Children as young as pre-K can learn these basic skills that they can use anytime! You can also download a peace breathing activity from our website.
- ✚ Invite someone who is doing peace and non-violence work nearby or somewhere in the world for a special assembly or interactive workshop.
- ✚ Plant a peace pole (www.peacepoles.com), peace rocks and/or a peace garden at your school.
- ✚ Do a community gardening, outdoor clean-up or other environmental activity – peace with our planet is important! (For information about the youth and environment program Roots and Shoots, go to www.rootsandshoots.org).
- ✚ Peace Day is a significant day for humanitarian aid across the world. Engage in a service or fundraising project to help other children in your community or across the world. For information about global humanitarian aid on 9/21, go to: <http://peaceoneday.org/impact>.

WRITING BASED

- ✚ Create “Peace Rules” for your school or classroom and post them visibly.
- ✚ Write peace poetry. One option is to have children use their senses (taste, touch, smell, etc.) to describe what each child’s feeling of what peace is. Poems can be integrated into assemblies or put together in a booklet, which can also include artwork.

- ✚ Watch the 2 minute animated video “I Will Be a Hummingbird,” narrated by the late Nobel Peace Prize recipient Wangari Maathai: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-btl654R_pY. Have students write about and/or draw what they can do to make the world a better and more peaceful place and then share. Students can also learn about individuals who have changed the world.
- ✚ Write words and phrases about peace, draw, paint or cut out images & make a collaborative peace collage or flag for your classroom or after-school room
- ✚ Have students write down (or draw) a PEACE PLEDGE – something they can make an effort to do in their lives to practice peace – with others, with the environment, with themselves. One or two students from each class can read their peace pledges aloud at a special assembly.

ARTS BASED

- ✚ Go to THE ARTS Page of our ‘What Can YOU Do?’ Section (<http://www.peacedayphilly.org/what-can-you-do/art/>)
- ✚ 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! We can help find children in other parts of the world to send your cranes to internationally - e-mail us! 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. In 2011 there were an estimated 3.5 million pinwheels for peace in countries around the world! For info go to: www.pinwheelsforpeace.com.
- ✚ Make a painting, collage or drawing of children around the world. Talk/write about what children dream about for their future. How are children far away are different? How are they just like you?
- ✚ Watch the 20-minute documentary “*Ru-Water is Life*” about water access in South Sudan and its impact on children, particularly girls. Access to the film, as well as fact and question sheets, are available by request at contact@peacedayphilly.org. Go to: <http://www.ruthefilm.com> for info.
- ✚ Create anti-bullying posters for common areas of your school / after-school program.
- ✚ Create peace doves and have a peace walk around your school/neighborhood. Instructions: <http://rootsandshoots.org/content/create-giant-peace-dove-puppet-roots-shoots-day-peace>.
- ✚ In small groups, create a song, dance, skit, or puppet show with a non-violence/peace theme.
- ✚ Make a peace mural for your classroom or a common area at your school that expresses students’ visions of peace. Or, create a peace art exhibition and invite parents!
- ✚ “Chalk for Peace” - Give children sidewalk chalk at recess to express their visions for peace in visible outdoor areas. Take pictures of their creations! More info: <http://www.chalk4peace.org>.
- ✚ Create a peace art exhibition! Learn about Peace Pals: wppspeacepals.org/activities/ to download free activities & view details about the Peace Pals on line international art exhibition.
- ✚ Create a classroom or lunchroom Peace Tree that is colorfully decorated. Have students write or draw their wish for peace on peace dove-shaped paper and then each wish can be added. Each day beginning 9/21 a wish can be read on the intercom during morning announcements.