

Lesson 3.1

What Does It Take to Be a Peacebuilder?



Rationale

Many people presume that peacebuilding is an activity beyond their own capabilities, probably best left in the hands of professionals. In this lesson, students will be challenged to explore who peacebuilders really are. What kinds of people are they? What kinds of activities have they done? What have been some of their accomplishments?

Objectives

1. To identify the characteristics and actions that have made effective peacebuilders in the past.
2. To recognize that each human being possesses many of the characteristics needed for everyday peacebuilding.

Standards

- ◆ Individual Development and Identity
- ◆ Global Connections
- ◆ Civic Ideals and Practices

Time: 95 minutes

Materials:

- Poster boards/manila paper, markers, crayons, index cards
- Identify the Peacebuilders* Worksheet
- Name Bank of Peacebuilders* Teacher Resource
- Researching Your Peacebuilder* Worksheet
- Access to Internet or library for research—If no access to either for research during class time, print information about the peacebuilders prior to class.



95 minutes

Note: The peacebuilders quiz is not intended to make anyone feel ignorant. It is meant to highlight that peacebuilding is not always taught in schools. It is an opportunity to reinforce that, at a certain point, we have to become responsible for our own knowledge and decide that we want to learn more. We cannot rely on other people or the media to provide us with everything we should know.

Extension Activity 1 Research or Power Point or Video presentation

Teachers may choose to make this exercise a more formal research project with a written, cited paper; a Power Point presentation; a student-made documentary or a re-enactment of the peacebuilder and his/her work.

Extension Activity 2 USIP Witnesses

View any of USIP's witness videos at www.buildingpeace.org to reinforce the idea that a peacebuilder is an ordinary person who uses the skills that they have to accomplish extraordinary things.

Procedures

What do we know about peacebuilders? (20 minutes)

1. Ask students how many of them are peacebuilders. Remind them that perhaps in specific situations, they may have contributed to peace—toning down an argument, working for a charity, helping folks in their neighborhoods, having a bake sale and sending the profits to an organization that supports international causes. Remind them that there are many ways to contribute to a culture of peace between individuals, communities, and the world and that peacebuilders can possess a range of qualities and skills.
2. Ask the class to brainstorm qualities of an effective peacebuilder. Write these on the board.
3. Tell students that you want to check their knowledge of peacebuilders past and present. Distribute the *Peacebuilders Quiz Worksheet*. Tell students that the worksheet includes several categories of peacebuilders. You will give students one minute to fill in each category, one category at a time. They should not move on to the next category until you have directed them to do so. Students can repeat answers, if a person falls in more than one category. At the end of the quiz, you can give students one additional minute to try to fill in any remaining blanks.
4. At the end of the quiz, have students raise their hands if they completely filled one category, two categories, three categories, etc.
5. As a class, go over the different categories and have students fill in any blank spaces. You can use the *Teacher Resource: Peacebuilder Quiz* to add to students' lists.
6. Debrief the exercise using some or all of the following questions:
 - ◆ What made this quiz difficult?
 - ◆ Why do you think you had blanks on your sheet?
 - ◆ What can you do to ensure that the next time you take a quiz like this, you will be more informed?

Learning more by researching peacebuilders (60 minutes)

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four, and have each group draw one of the peacebuilders' names (from your *Name Bank of Peacebuilders Teacher Resource*) out of an envelope (take a copy of the handout and cut up to separate peacebuilders). Have each group research their peacebuilder, using the Internet, classroom/library books, or provide biographical information that you have downloaded prior to class, if there is no Internet or library access (www.nobelprize.org is a good source for brief bios).
2. Distribute the *Researching your Peacebuilder Handout* to each group and have them complete it based on their research.
3. Tell each group that they will make a poster of their peacebuilder attaching their picture, writing the person's background and accomplishments, and perhaps making a symbol of the cause that the peacebuilder espouses. At the bottom of each poster, students in their groups should identify the characteristics of their peacebuilder that contributed to them being effective. Have students hang their posters around the room.

Making personal connections (15 minutes)

1. Give each student an index card. Have students conduct a gallery walk, looking at each poster around the room. While they are reading each poster, have them write on one side of the card the characteristics of these peacebuilders that they think they, too, possess, and on the reverse side, the characteristics they would like to develop.
2. Return to the brainstorming that you did earlier as a class. Using the research that the students did, ask them to add to the list of characteristics of peacebuilders.
3. Lead a class discussion using some or all of the following questions:
 - ◆ How did the qualities of the peacebuilders you researched help them be effective peacebuilders?
 - ◆ What qualities do you have that can make you an effective peacebuilder?
 - ◆ What do you think you need to work on?
 - ◆ What do these peacebuilders tell you about what kind of person can be a peacebuilder? *Students should be able to conclude that peacebuilders are usually quite ordinary people who find themselves drawing on their natural strengths in the face of an extraordinary circumstance.*

Assessment:

Students' research and posters as well as the whole class discussion

**Extension Activity 3
Online Peacebuilder Quiz**

Have students visit the Global Peacebuilding Center's website at www.buildingpeace.org and complete the peacebuilders quiz to learn more about peacebuilders.

Lesson 3.1 WORKSHEET: IDENTIFY THE PEACEBUILDERS

Directions: Try to find five names to fill each category. You will have one minute to complete each category. You can select people who are dead or alive, and you can use a person more than once, if they fall within more than one category.

List five peacebuilders.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five American peacebuilders.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five female peacebuilders.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five peacebuilders from outside of the United States.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five winners of the Nobel Peace Prize.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five youth peacebuilders under the age of 30.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

List five peacebuilders in your local community.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Lesson 3.1 TEACHER RESOURCE: NAME BANK OF PEACEBUILDERS

Below is a list of names that you could use to help students fill in their worksheets after the quiz is over. There are many sources for names of peacebuilders. All of the people listed below (with the exception of the youth peacebuilders) are winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. You can access their bios at http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/, where you can also read and watch their Nobel Lecture.

American peacebuilders (Nobel Peace Prize winners)

Barack Obama
Jane Addams
Jimmy Carter
Ralph Bunche
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Theodore Roosevelt
Woodrow Wilson

Women peacebuilders (Nobel Peace Prize winners)

Jane Addams
Mother Teresa
Aung San Suu Kyi
Rigoberta Menchu Tum
Shirin Ebadi

International peacebuilders (Nobel Peace Prize winners)

Albert Schweitzer
Kofi Annan
Mother Teresa
Lech Walesa
Dalai Lama
Henry Dunant
Aung San Suu Kyi
Bishop Desmond Tutu

Winners of the Nobel Peace Prize (all on this resource except Youth Peacebuilders are Nobel Prize winners)

Martti Ahtissari
John Hume
David Trimble
Liu Xiaobo
Nelson Mandela
Albert Schweitzer
Frederik Willem de Klerk
Mikhail Gorbachev
Elie Wiesel

Youth Peacebuilders (under 30 years old)

Mayerly Sanchez—Leader of the Children’s Movement for Peace in Colombia, and a Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

Awista Ayub—Founder of the Afghan Youth Sports Exchange which teaches girls in Afghanistan to play soccer (football).

Jakob Lund—Founder and Director of Play 31, an organization that brings soccer (football) to young children around the world.

