

Lesson 3.2

Organizations Working for Peace



Rationale

Peacebuilding organizations can be as large as national governments or as small as a single person. In this lesson, students will explore the history, growth, and activities of a variety of organizations dedicated to promoting peace, as well as consider the potential for all types of organizations to play a positive role in peacebuilding.

Objectives

1. To identify international, national, and local peace organizations, and describe their work.
2. To identify the strategies, goals, and impacts of various organizations.
3. To identify ways to support various organizations.
4. To understand the value of people working together in groups for peace.

Standards

- ◆ Individual Development and Identity
- ◆ Individuals, Groups and Institutions
- ◆ Global Connections

Time: 90 minutes

Materials

- Researching a Peacebuilding Organization Worksheet*
- Access to library/computer lab or books for researching peacebuilding organizations. If you do not have access, you can prepare information sheets for students prior to class.



90 minutes

Procedures

1. Ask students:

- ◆ What does it mean to work for peace?
- ◆ What kinds of activities are considered peacebuilding?
- ◆ What kinds of organizations work for these various forms of peace? Local? National? International?

List the organizations that students may have heard about and suggest others.

2. Ask students:

- ◆ What do these groups have in common?
- ◆ How do they differ?

Share with students that peace organizations have many different goals, methods, sizes, and memberships. For example, the International Committee of the Red Cross, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, has many functions, including providing medical assistance to victims of wars and natural disasters. The United States Institute of Peace, located in Washington, D.C., works to prevent, manage, and resolve international conflicts.

3. From the list of organizations students listed, or from your own list of organizations (www.nobelprize.org lists organizations, as well as individuals, that have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize), assign each group one organization to research that works internationally. They should identify the mission, goals, ways of carrying out the mission, accomplishments of the organization, and ways to contribute to the organization and its cause (donations, volunteering, etc.). Distribute the *Researching a Peacebuilding Organization* Worksheet and have groups complete it.

4. Have each group create a nightly news story about their organization, as if one of the organization's major accomplishments happened today. They should introduce their organization to the class by acting out their news story.

5. Debrief using some or all of the following questions:

- ◆ What patterns did you notice in the activities of the organizations presented?
- ◆ Were there connections between the work of local and international organizations?
- ◆ What is the value of people coming together to work in organized groups for peace?

Extension Activity 1 Create a Peacebuilding Organization

Divide students into groups and have each group form their own peacebuilding organization—identify an international peacebuilding goal and design an organization that would address this goal. What actions will your organization take to achieve your goal? Who will join your organization? As a culminating activity, have each group create an advertisement for their peace group for TV/radio/Internet and present their commercial to the class. The goal of the commercial is to educate the audience about the organization and its mission, and to motivate people to support to the cause.

Extension Activity 2 Peace Timeline

Have students create a peace timeline researching major international events from the twentieth century to the present, and the organizations that were formed in response to those events.

Assessment:

Completed worksheet, nightly news story, small group work and whole class discussion

Lesson 3.2 WORKSHEET: RESEARCHING A PEACEBUILDING ORGANIZATION

Directions: Select a peacebuilding organization to research and answer the questions below about your organization. After you have answered the questions, create a nightly news story about one of the activities of your organization, assuming that the activity occurred today. Be prepared to present your organization to the class by acting out your news story.

What is the name of your organization?

What are the mission and goals of your organization?

How does your organization carry out its mission?

What are some of the accomplishments of your organization?

How can people contribute to or support your organization (donations, volunteering, etc.)?