

Around The World in 180 Minutes In Honor of the National Day of Peace

Level: Middle School

Time to complete: 180 minutes (Approximately three history class periods plus homework)

Day One

Large Group Discussion

The teacher explains that the class will begin a discussion on diversity and will first present background information on the National Day of Peace. A discussion will then ensue in which the teacher asks the following questions:

1. What are some of the wars that were fought in the world?
2. Who participated in these wars?
3. Why were these wars fought? What were some of the reasons?

Small Group Discussion

The class will be divided into small groups and will be asked to discuss the following questions with each other:

1. Why do wars happen?
2. Do wars happen because people don't understand each other?

The class will join together to share their answers.

Homework

Write a journal entry about a time when you felt that someone didn't understand you because of your culture. Students will not be required to share this information with the class.

Day Two

Introduction

At the start of class, the students will be asked to briefly reflect on their journal assignments by responding to this prompt:

1. What was it that the other person(s) did not understand about you?
2. What is good about your culture?
3. What are some of the happenings that you celebrate in your culture?

Small Group Discussions

In the small groups, students will discuss their responses to the third question and, if they are comfortable, the first and second. The teacher will provide a variety of tools with which they can work, and the students should create a visual representation illuminating at least one positive aspect of their culture.

Homework

The students will finish their visual representations.

Day Three

During this class, the students will go on a walk around the world. Each student will set up his or her display in a separate spot in the classroom. The students will not be required to present their pieces. Instead, they will walk around the classroom with a notebook and jot down what they have learned about each culture they view.