

Cultivating peace



Lesson Plan

Lesson title	Cultivating peace Lesson 2
Learning objective	Pupils work together to create a 'Window of Wonders' to explore their concept of the ideal environment and the role it plays in cultivating peace.
Pupils will:	Explore the importance of communication and cooperation in achieving a happy and peaceful environment. Explore how plants are used within Hindu and Christian religions as an expression of peace and welcome. Discover how the scientific names of plants provide a unifying language throughout the world
Key words	Paradise, Garden of Eden, Islamic gardens

Plan	Resources
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Show a selection of images of 'Views from a Window' (green, industrial, urban, countryside, park, and coast – Resource 1). Ask the class how these views make them feel. Which is their favourite view and why.</p> <p>In preparation for Activity 1, ask the pupils to find a picture or take a picture of a view that they value, love or like (this can be from magazines, cards, newspapers, their own digital image or an internet</p>	<p>Resource 1: 'Views from a Window'</p>
<p>Activity 1</p> <p>Children are asked to share their chosen picture with their partner/group/class and say why they value this view.</p> <p>Ask the children to come up and randomly stick their picture somewhere onto a large blank wall display. They are going to cultivate a 'Window of Wonders'. The views on the wall will be varied and their task is to link each individual view to the next. They do this by drawing the view beyond their picture so that it blends with the next picture to make a complete 'Window of Wonders'.</p> <p>To do this successfully they will need to cooperate and work with the child/children whose view is nearest to theirs, so that they share the drawing activity to make sure their connected images come together as one. This may result in children working together who may not choose to normally, or are outside of their friendship group.</p>	<p>Materials: Large blank piece of paper, pencils, coloured pencils or crayons</p> <p>Resource 2: Image of dove with olive branch</p>

Cultivating peace



Lesson Plan

Plan	Resources
<p>Once the 'Window of Wonders' drawings are completed ask the pairs/groups to think about what was easy and what was difficult about this process. In Christianity a dove with an olive branch in its beak is often used to symbolise peace (Resource 2). If you 'extend an olive branch' to someone it means to try to find a solution to conflict. Did they need to extend an olive branch during this activity? Was this a good activity for bringing people together to work cooperatively and share their differing views and ideas?</p>	
<p>Activity 2 The 'Window of Wonders' is a type of paradise of all the things the class would love to see and which would make them happy and bring them together with others. Ask the children what does the idea of paradise mean to them. Look at the images of paradise within Christianity (Resource 3). What are the similarities between them? (e.g. gardens, water, plants, animals, people). Does the class 'Window of Wonders' include any of these elements?</p>	<p>Resource 3: Images of paradise</p>
<p>Activity 3 Having created the 'Window of Wonders' the children may wish to invite people to see it and share it. To welcome their visitors, task the children to make a Rangoli picture. Rangoli are decorative designs made on the floors of living rooms and courtyards during Hindu festivals. They are sacred welcoming areas. They are made using natural material such as coloured rice and flour, flower petals, leaves, charcoal, soil and sawdust. The designs can be simple geometric shapes or natural shapes such as flowers, plants and trees. Look at the Rangoli images (Resource 4) and then ask the class to work in groups to come up with their own design and list of materials (Resources). The class should then work in groups to create their own. These could be on boards or fabric on the tables in the classroom, or on the floor outside in the playground. Invite some classes or groups to come and see their Rangoli and 'Window of Wonders'.</p>	<p>Resource 4: Images of Rangoli</p> <p>Materials: Natural material such as coloured rice and flour, flower petals, leaves, charcoal, soil and sawdust</p>

Cultivating peace



Lesson Plan

Plan

Resources

Activity 4

Ask the children to think of the plants they have used in their Rangoli. Do they know the names of these plants? Do they know if these plants have any other names?

Show the children photographs of the bluebell, hare bell and the peace lily (**Resource 5**). Look at the common and scientific names of each. Ask the children if they think the common name may cause a problem when communicating with people from different places.

Common names can be very different, but the scientific name for each plant is the same the world over. This allows people who may speak different languages to communicate clearly and understand which plant they are talking about. Can the class think of how the peace lily got its name (**Resource 5**)? (The white part is a modified leaf called a spathe and looks like the white flag calling for truce in battles).

To finish ask the class what flower they would choose as their flower of peace and why.

Plenary

Remind the children of the activities they have done and ask them to think of words or phrases to describe what they have learned e.g. make new friends, cooperate, peace, paradise, and scientific language.

Use these words or phrases to create a border around their 'Window of Wonders'.

Resource 5: Images of bluebell, harebell and peace lily