

## International Day of Peace September 21

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about the International Day of Peace and the right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to have protection and freedom from war (CRC Article 38).

### Background Information for Teachers

United Nations International Day of Peace  
[un.org/en/events/peaceday/](http://un.org/en/events/peaceday/)

### Grades

4 – 8

### Materials

Book entitled *Peace One Day* by Jeremy Gilley  
Role play cards (printable copy attached)  
Paper or cloth for peace flags  
Image of the UN flag  
Crayons, pencil crayons, fabric markers

### Activity One

- Ask the students what a symbol is. List the symbols of peace that they know about. Brainstorm what other visuals might be good symbols of peace.
- Show the students the UN flag. Ask them to explain what they see. What do the symbols represent? The olive branches symbolize peace, and the globe represents the people of the world. The olive branch as a symbol of peace dates back to Ancient Greece. Ask the students if the colours are significant, and what they might mean.
- Have the students create peace flags using symbols of peace in their designs. Ask each student to present his or her peace flag to the class highlighting the symbols of peace that he or she used. Post the peace flags.

### Extensions

Have the students research peace symbols throughout the world and find their origin. Ask the students to write a peace poem, completing the statement "Peace is..."

### Global Themes

- Conflict and conflict resolution
- Social Justice
- Interdependence

**Additional Resources**

To learn more about the International Day of Peace and young activists, watch the video *Day after Peace*. (A free downloadable copy is available at [peaceoneday.org](http://peaceoneday.org).)

*Peace One Day* website

[peaceoneday.org](http://peaceoneday.org)

Book entitled *One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists* by Janet Wilson

## Role Play Cards



copying someone  
else's ideas (i.e.,  
artwork, story plot)  
without their  
permission

cutting in front  
of someone who  
is in line

gossiping about  
a classmate

excluding  
someone from  
an activity

damaging  
someone else's  
work

fighting on the field  
(i.e., in a soccer game)

fighting over  
supplies

violating  
someone's privacy  
(i.e., reading a journal,  
report card, email, etc.)

teasing another  
student because  
of a physical or  
cultural difference

invading someone's  
personal space (i.e.  
looking in a desk, locker  
without permission)

having  
opposite ideas

spreading  
online rumors