

Universal Children's Day November 20

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to introduce children to Universal Children's Day and the rights of the child highlighted by this UN Day (all CRC Articles).

Background Information for Teachers

United Nations Universal Children's Day

unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/children1.asp

Public Health Agency of Canada

phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncd-jne/index-eng.php

Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Social Justice
- Interdependence
- Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- Sustainable Action

Grade Level

4-8

Materials Required

Book entitled This Child, Every Child; A book about the World's Children by David Smith

Colouring supplies: felt pens, crayons, pastels, pencil crayons

Poster Paper and coloured paper

Change the World Student Handout

Activity One

- Introduce November 20th as Universal Children's Day; a UN day celebrated around the world. Ask the students why it is important to celebrate children. Why do children need special rights?
- Read the book This Child, Every Child; A book about the World's Children by David Smith
- Review the UNCRC articles with the students. Ask why the rights are important in their lives and in the lives of children around the world. Ask the students which rights they feel are most important.
- Explain to the students that they will select a right that they think is important and draw what that right looks like. Use the book as an example. Suggest the students choose a right that they can celebrate in their life.
- Divide students into small groups. Have each group discuss what the rights of the Convention mean in their lives and then to consider what they may mean in the lives of other children. Each group can report back its conclusions to the whole class.
- In partners, or individually, have students create a poster, video, or alternative form of expression to celebrate the value of children's rights around the world or in their community.
- Students to share their work with the class and the school through an assembly.

Activity Two

Lesson written by M.Lombardo.

- Ask the students to consider how they can promote conditions of peace, justice and citizenship. Ask what the students already do to create a society that is more compassionate, more caring and more sharing where human rights are respected and protected. Discuss what the students can do as individuals and as a class to encourage a society of peace locally and globally. Provide this guiding question: Can one person change the world?
- Discuss this question and record the comments
- Explore this question by using mentor texts, which included the following:
- Sam and the Lucky Money—Karen Chinn
- Martin's Big Words—Doreen Rappaport
- One Hen: How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference—Katie Smith Milway
- Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed—Emily Pearson
- Examine each of the characters and their actions. Use the graphic organizer in small groups, partners, and independently to record their ideas and use proof from the texts.
- Examine children/youth of the past and present who have taken action about various social issues, which included Iqbal Masih, Craig Kielburger, Hannah Taylor, Bilaal Rajan, and Nickole Evans. Research information on each of these individuals using non-fiction articles, and selected websites. These sources allowed the children to see real-life child activists, which provided a different perspective than a story in a picture book format.
- Students answer the guiding question in any format they choose.

Universal Children's Day Change the World Student Handout

Name of Person and their Action	<u>Yes</u> , they changed the world.	<u>No</u> , they did not change the world.