

# Build Peace within your Classroom!

The United Nations International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed globally each year on and around September 21.

Set aside twenty minutes or an hour September 16 to 20 to engage students in activities that build awareness, understanding, and respect.

Peace art activities can enhance your hallways, a collaborative class peace pledge can define positive expectations, learning about people from different parts of the world can build compassion, and simple peace breathing can be a skill students can use to help stay peaceful throughout the year.

## 2024 Featured Activities

- For High School Students, watch and discuss the 17-minute film *Barrio de Paz*: <https://www.globalonenessproject.org/library/films/barrio-de-paz>, about working with gangs in Ecuador.
- For middle school students, move through some or all of the environment-themed photos and reflect about them in the context of climate change: <https://www.globalonenessproject.org/stories/winners-and-finalists-environment-you/>
- For elementary students, write peace haiku and possibly illustrate: <https://www.peacedayphilly.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Peace-Poetry-Activities.pdf>

Here are a few easy ideas to bring peace into your classroom:

- Breathe! Try peace breathing: <http://bit.ly/peacebreathing> (Teachers can check out the value of mindfulness for kids in a 40-minute video at <http://bit.ly/mindfulnessforkidsvideo>).
- Write peace pledges; share a few from each class and/or display them in the halls. To download a peace pledge sheet for younger kids as well as a peace pledge template for older kids, go to <http://bit.ly/peacepledges>.
- Watch and discuss Farah Siraj's "What If" video and read the lyrics. Talk about having compassion for kids in other parts of the world. [youtube.com/watch?v=bLEj\\_tkL9QU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLEj_tkL9QU)
- Create peace flags, peace cranes, or a collaborative collage with words and images of peace! Go to <http://bit.ly/artsandpeace> for many art-related ideas. (Some materials costs may be involved.)
- For many more Peace Day activity ideas and resource links, visit the "What Can You Do?" section of [www.peacedayphilly.org](http://www.peacedayphilly.org).

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## Why Observe Peace Day in Your Classroom?

The UN International Day of Peace, observed on and around September 21, is a global day that engages students across the country and across the world.

For example, students in Chicago public schools have been engaging in Peace activities for Peace Day for many years. Students in the UK, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Nepal, Canada and many other countries also engage in the day.



Peace Day Philly, the local initiative for the International Day of Peace, will take place during the week in which Peace Day falls (Sept. 16- Sept. 21).

- Peace activities give students of all ages the chance to think about, create around and discuss the idea of positive peace and greater unity.
- Peace activities are flexible and can intersect with multiple curriculum areas and anti-bullying programs. Simple peace activities can also be used for 20 minute morning meetings.
- Peace activities can begin the process of building positive regard and respect between students of different backgrounds, races and cultures.
- Peace activities can be a way to promote positive messaging of the School District, setting a unified tone for the academic year.
- Peace activities and conversations can be repeated at various times during the school year to add additional learning and value.
- Peace activities can give students of all ages the chance to reflect on the concept of peace.

Please share your activities on social media using #peacedayphilly and tag @peacedayphilly

For more about Peace Day Philly and the International Day of Peace, visit [www.peacedayphilly.org](http://www.peacedayphilly.org)

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