

# PINWHEELS FOR PEACE LESSON PLAN



## WHO WILL YOU MAKE PEACE WITH ON 21 SEPTEMBER?

For a media-rich interactive format of this lesson, and over 20 others, visit [www.peaceoneday.org/education](http://www.peaceoneday.org/education)



# Pinwheels for Peace

## Background for Teachers:

Peace One Day education aims to advance learning in the areas of conflict resolution, peace and sustainability, using Peace Day – 21 September – as a focus. Partnering with like-minded organisations and education specialists allows this to become a diverse and engaging process, providing young people with an ever-evolving range of projects across a number of subjects and platforms.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan at Monarch High School in Florida, as a way for their students to use Peace Day to express their feelings about what is going on in the world and in their lives.

The first Pinwheels for Peace were installed

on 21 September 2005. In its first year 500,000 pinwheels were planted. In 2012 the number had grown to 4,000,000 pinwheels and the project continues to grow.

A pinwheel, also known as a windmill, is a childhood symbol – it reminds us of a time when things were simple, joyful, peaceful. Pinwheels can be minimal or very complex – imagination, creativity and a mild breeze are the only requirements. They can be easily made using just about any type of malleable material, from copy paper, to thin plastic or even lightweight metal; the stick of the pinwheel can be as simple as a pencil or metal rod; and the size of the pinwheel can be as small as an inch in diameter or as large as you can make it.

## Purpose of the Lesson:

- In this lesson, students will discuss the world around them in order to reflect on the levels of conflict and violence in our everyday life. As a result of this, students should consider what public visual statement they would like to make about creating a more peaceful planet, and how they would creatively express this on their pinwheel. The culmination of this can be the creative installation of students' pinwheels in a location where their beauty and purpose can be fully appreciated by the school, and the wider community..

## Lesson Objectives:

- To create a pinwheel that represents a student's thoughts and feelings about peace, anti-bullying and non-violence.
- To create an art installation designed to inspire public reflection on peace.
- To be involved in a growing worldwide art installation project on Peace Day – 21 September.



## Opener:

- Introduce the idea of Peace One Day, Jeremy Gilley's journey and Peace Day 21 September.
- There are films and supporting information at [www.peaceoneday.org](http://www.peaceoneday.org)
- Introduce the idea of a school project for Peace Day.

### Teacher/Learner Activity 1:

- To prepare, gather straws/skewers, pencils or wooden dowels to use for the pinwheel stick. You will need one for each pinwheel. You should also have ready some pins or pipe cleaners to attach the pinwheels to the sticks.
- To open the lesson, discuss with the students "What is peace?" prompting with questions such as "What does peace mean to you?" and "What does peace look like?"
- Show students the **Pinwheels for Peace** website, the pinwheel gallery and the locations of those who have registered to participate.
- Once students have a clear idea of the project, hand out copies of **Resource A** - Pinwheel for Peace Template and Instructions.
- Ask students to follow the instructions on the resource to produce a personalised pinwheel.
- Ask students to brainstorm words and images that can be used to decorate the pinwheels, representing, for example: peace, non-violence, anti-bullying, friendship, intercultural cooperation etc.
- Students finish by brainstorming where they think would be the best place for their pinwheel installation, what plans need to be made for the event and how best to generate interest.

### Teacher/Learner Activity 2:

- Students could become involved in the preparation, set-up and/or hosting of the event. This might involve: producing an information / welcome sign to sit alongside their installation, being aware of any permissions needed, and health and safety considerations.
- Students might like to produce flyers to publicise the installation.
- **Resource B** provides ideas for organising a sporting event on Peace Day. You may find some of the ideas relevant when organising your Pinwheels for Peace installation.
- Close to, or on Peace Day, students should 'plant' their pinwheels in a public space, becoming a part of the Pinwheels for Peace worldwide art installation.
- On the day of the event, capture photos of the installation to share on the Pinwheels for Peace website, logging your location details and number of pinwheels.

### Reflection/Ideas to Discuss:

After the event, ask students to share their thoughts about the project.

- How can art help to spread ideas?
- Was the Pinwheels for Peace installation successful in helping to spread the message of Peace Day?
- Ask students to visit the Pinwheels for Peace website to find out how many people were involved on Peace Day this year, and in how many countries.
- How can your school help increase the reach of the project for next year? E.g. were there any countries where no pinwheels were planted? Can you make contact with a school in one of those countries and encourage them to get involved?

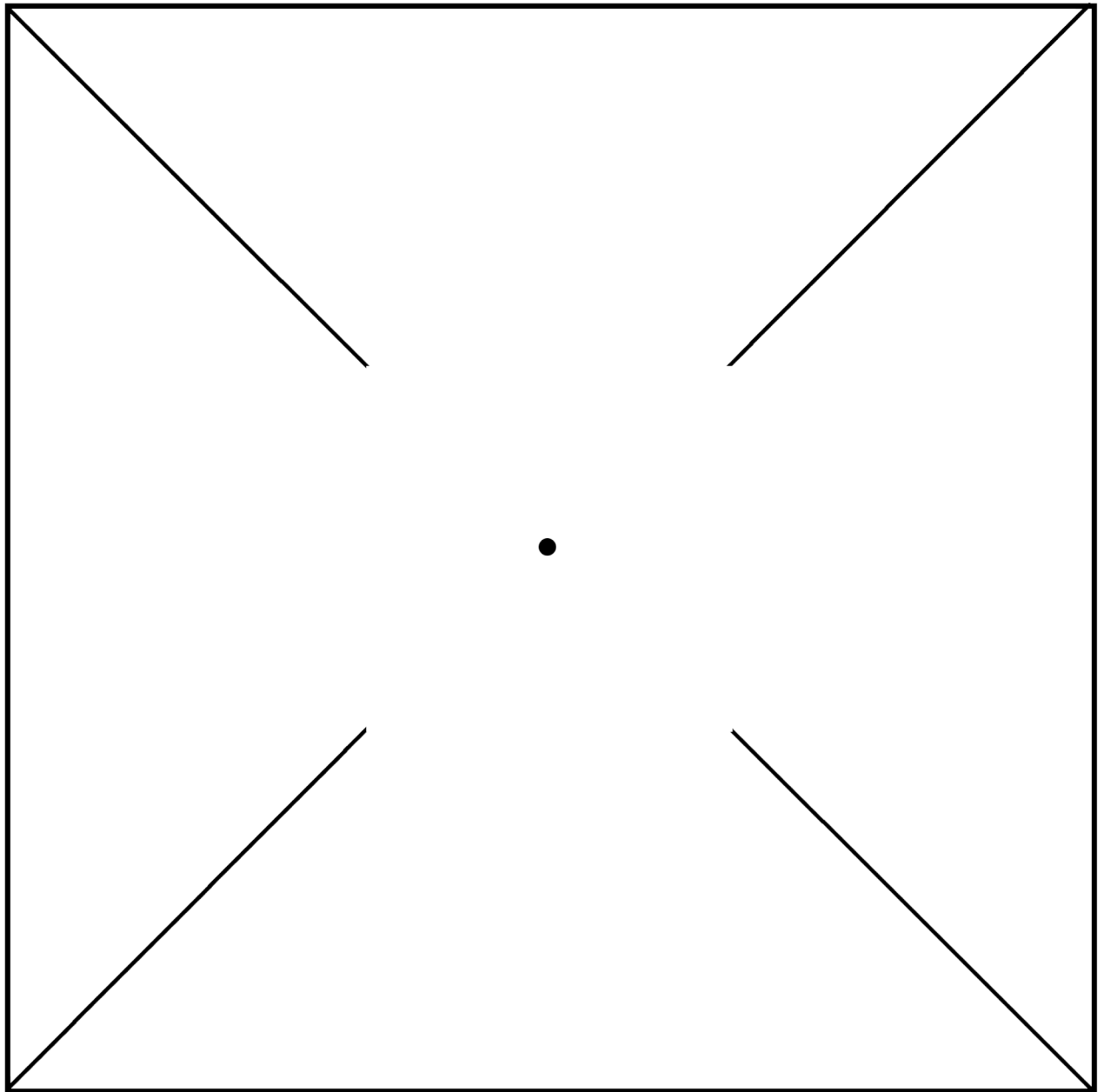
# PINWHEELS FOR PEACE

## What you need:

Scissors  
Straight Pin  
Pencil with eraser  
Coloured pencils or markers (to decorate)



Cut out this peace sign and put it in the centre of your pinwheel before you put the pin in it.



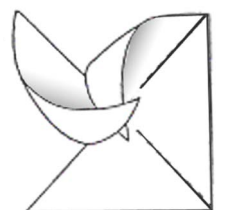
## How to get started:

Cut out the pinwheel square on this page. On one side of the paper, write down your feelings about war/peace/tolerance/living in harmony. On the other side of the paper use markers, coloured pencils, paint, or other art media to visually express your feelings.

Following the lines on the template, cut in from all four corners, leaving about 2 inches of the centre uncut.

## To create the pinwheel:

Gently bend (don't fold) one of the cut corners to the centre point. Skip the next cut corner, and bend the next one. Skip and bend until four points meet in the centre. Then, stick the straight pin through all four points AND the back of the pinwheel. Stick the pin into the pencil eraser. Find some wind to test it out.



**Save your pinwheel in a safe place until September 21st (which is the International Day of Peace) then take it to a public place and "plant" it into the ground to send a message of WORLD PEACE!**



# ONE DAY ONE GOAL BRIEF

USE THIS WORKSHEET TO ORGANISE YOUR **ONE DAY ONE GOAL** EVENT FOR PEACE DAY. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BASED ON A FOOTBALL MATCH; HOWEVER, YOU MAY WANT TO ORGANISE A RUGBY MATCH, TRACK AND FIELD DAY, OR SOME OTHER SPORTING EVENT. READ THE 'GETTING STARTED' SECTION FIRST TO THINK ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND WHAT YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE. YOU MIGHT WANT TO ESTABLISH AN ACTION COMMITTEE AND RECORD YOUR IDEAS AND TASKS USING A COMMITMENT COUNTDOWN DIARY.

## GETTING STARTED

There's more to football than the game! What needs to be done?

- How many teams will be involved?
- Is it one game or a mini-tournament?
- Are the teams made up of players from your class or are you looking for volunteers from the whole school?
- If your school has a 'house' system, perhaps each house puts a team forward.
- Do you want to organise a game or mini-tournament with another school?
- Who will be captain of each team?
- Each team needs a name. Ideas could be voted on by the class, house, or team.
- Perhaps each team could take on the name of a national team.
- Are there local sport grounds that may wish to host a game or mini-tournament? Who will contact them?

## TRAINING

- Teams could train in Physical Education classes or at the football club. Do you need to set up a separate training programme? Who will do that?
- Invite local professional football players to

- help with training. Who will contact them?
- Would the science department like to run a sports science/nutrition class?

## LETTING PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE GAME

- Who will put together promotional materials, posters, press releases, school magazine articles, etc.? Promotional materials need to explain the reason behind One Day One Goal, i.e., Peace Day, 21 September, and Peace One Day.
- Who will contact the local newspapers, radio stations, etc.?

- Talk to your teacher about inviting parents to the game.
- Can you make an announcement in assembly to help build interest?

## THE DAY OF THE GAME

- Who will referee?
- Who will write the speech for the opening ceremony? Who will read it out? The Head Teacher?
- Will the teams wear special jerseys to raise awareness of Peace Day? They could be designed in school.
- Do you want to make badges or medals for everyone involved? Who will make them?
- Is the winning team awarded a trophy? Where can you find a trophy? A local sports

- shop may want to donate one in return for some publicity.
- Who will arrange for refreshments for the teams and how will they be paid for?
- Do you want to find cheerleaders?
- Find a game photographer and someone to film the game. Where can you find the camera?
- Will there be refreshments available for the spectators?