

Peace Resource Center Workshop
Fifth Grade
Cesar Chavez, Peacemaker and Skip the Plastic Bag, Please!

Materials: Harvesting Hope Book, markers, colored paper strips, used T-shirts, enough for each student, scissors, yarn, earth ball, turtle puppet with plastic attached, video player, computer, Poster: Ways I Am a Peacemaker, Talking piece, 4 papers, each with one word (Nonviolence, Pilgrimage, Strike, Contract).

Post the following Agenda:

Nametags & Game
Welcome & Agenda Preview
Our California Peacemaker
Rowan Peacemakers Activity
Bathroom Break and Snack
Protecting Our Oceans
Making Our Own Shopping Bags
Closing

(A) Nametags and Yarn Web Icebreaker

The participants are standing in a circle. The leader holds the end of the yarn. S/he tells something about him/herself (name, and a favorite part of nature). Then, s/he throws the bundle to another player. This player also holds the thread of yarn and tells the group the same things about him/her. That person again passes on the yarn (but still holding the thread, of course). This way, a web of the yarn is created. The web represents the bond among the group. Then, the web is dissolved by reversing the throwing and rolling up the thread of yarn.
6 min total

(B) Welcome to the Peace Resource Center

“There are lots of webs in the world, lots of ways that we’re connected. I want to welcome you to the Peace Resource Center.

-- Would anyone like to guess what this place might be for?” (Take ideas from students.)

-- What does the word “Resource” mean?” (a source of supply or support, a source of information or expertise (Merriam Webster), can be a “natural resource” - water, wood, ore.)

-- So, here at the Peace Resource Center, we have lots of information and people who know how to do things for peace. We also believe peace is connected to caring for the earth and having justice in our world. As we’re together today, I hope you will take away some good information, so that you can be Peace Educators too.”

4 min., 10 total

Agenda Preview

3 min., 13 total

(A) Our California Peacemaker

“Now we are going to look closely at a Peacemaker you may know. His name was Cesar Chavez. Give a thumbs up, if you have heard of Cesar Chavez. Good! Before we start, I’d like you to do some thinking about some words that are in the story.”

-- At the rug, divide the group into four smaller groups. Give each group a paper with one of the words on it. One person in each group can write down the group’s ideas on the word paper. The words are: Nonviolence, Pilgrimage, Strike, Contract

-- Ask each group to share what they know about their word. If they’re not sure, ask them to guess the meaning. “From the words I gave you, can you predict what might be in the story?” “The name of this book is “Harvesting Hope”. As you hear the story, I’d like you to think about how the things that Cesar Chavez did that helped people to have hope.”

6 min., 19 total

Read story.

“How did you feel when I read about the farmworker families only getting 30 cents a day? What did you think when you heard that they didn’t have bathrooms, drinking water, or breaks? How did Cesar Chavez help people to hope? Is Hope something that Peacemakers usually help people with? What else do they do?” Pair-Share

12 min., 31 total

(B) Student Peacemakers

Show students the *Ways* list, also have enough lists printed out for each table.

“I’d like you to think about yourself in the last week. If you see something on the list that you did in the last week, I’d like you to write it, and your name on a colored paper strip. You may also think of something that is not on the list. If you’re not sure, come and check with me. With these strips we will make a big chain of peacemaking that you can take back to your classroom. To do that, we need to tape them into links. Here’s an example.”

Students can work on tables or on the floor with clipboards. Allow 10 minutes to make the chain. At end, gather students back together again. Ask how they felt about finding peacemaker traits in themselves. Ask what they think about their classroom chain.

15 min., 46 total

Ways I Am a Peacemaker

- I help other people to have hope.
- I encourage people.
- I include others.
- I stand up for others who are being treated unfairly.
- I solve conflicts by talking.
- I share feelings honestly.
- I help someone who needs it.
- I share something I have.
- I accept people's differences.
- I apologize.
- I do something to make up for a wrong thing I did.
- I forgive.
- I help others talk out a problem.
- I help others understand a problem.
- I use healthy and safe ways to express anger.
- I treat others fairly.
- I treat others kindly.

Bathroom break and snack

15 min. /1 hr. 1 min. total

(A) Protecting Our Oceans

Throw the large earth ball to someone in the group and ask,

- When you look at Earth, what do you notice? what covers the largest part of Earth?
(oceans)
- Has everyone been to the ocean? Has anyone been to any other ocean besides the Pacific?
- What are some things that you enjoy about the ocean?"

"Sadly, our oceans have some problems. Today, we're going to talk about one of them that *you can do something about!*" Bring out the Sea Turtle puppet. (Prepare it beforehand by having it tangled in some kind of plastic.). Can anyone explain what this problem is?"

The problem is that we're using too much plastic, and it's finding its way to the ocean. Have a look at this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qT-rOXB6NI>

- What did you notice from the video?
- How did the things you saw make you feel?
- What do you think we can do?

Some answers are: We can bring our own bags to the store. We can fill up our own reusable water bottles instead of buying bottled water. We can tell our friends and families about the

problem, and ask them to use less plastic. When we do use plastic, we can be sure to recycle it. Remember, though, that recycling is not as good as never using it in the first place.

10 min. // 1 hr. 11 min. total

“So, we are going to make our own reusable recycled bags! We’ll start with a t-shirt we don’t wear anymore and we’ll turn it into a bag. Then when you go to the store, you don’t have to use a plastic bag!” Distribute a T-shirt and scissors to each student. Demonstrate one and go around to assist students in making their bags. Encourage students to write their names on their bags.

Instructions for turning a t-shirt into a cloth bag:

<http://www.mommypotamus.com/no-sew-t-shirt-tote-bag-tutorial/>

and <http://www.instructables.com/id/No-Sew-10-Minute-T-Shirt-Tote/?ALLSTEPS>

35 min. // 1 hr. 46 min. total

(B) Closing

Gather students in a standing circle. “I hope that you’ve enjoyed your field trip to the Peace Resource Center. Now you know a lot more about peace, so you can be resources too, to your friends and family. We’ve certainly enjoyed having you here today.” Ask students to do a One Word Share. Using a Talking Piece, go around the circle and ask each person to share one word that is about their learning today.

5 min. / 1 hr. 51 min. total

Additional resources :

Plastic, Ahoy!: Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch by Patricia Newman (not in the PRC library)

Handout: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch <http://sfenvironmentkids.org/water/The%20Pacific%20Garbage%20Patch%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>