

Lesson 4:

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

Overview:

Students will understand the role that they can play in the international community and how they can be involved in peacekeeping. They will identify activities and projects that they can carry out in their communities or schools and identify future careers that could allow them to play a role in conflict management.

Objectives/Expectations:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Have a general understanding of the ways they can be involved in peacekeeping
- Be able to identify career paths that could allow them to be involved in conflict management
- Understand the importance of being a global citizen

Duration:

One class period

Materials required:

The final product of other activities suggested (posters, presentations, resolutions, videos etc.)
Access to a large room such as a gymnasium or a library

Content:

Students can be involved in peacekeeping and can contribute to the dialogue on Canada's contribution to peacekeeping. Through volunteering, engaged writing, event planning or future academic and professional careers, they can have an impact on the way international conflicts are solved and the degree of involvement of our country.

Here are some ideas:

- Using conflict mediation techniques in their school
- Volunteering with a development organization in your community
- Sending school supplies to students in developing countries
- Engaging in some community action
- Sponsoring an HIV/AIDS orphan or HIV/AIDS-affected family through a charity group
- Organizing a peacekeeping day at your school or in your community on May 29th (International Peacekeepers Day)
- Writing letters to the editor of your local or regional newspaper
- Writing letters to your local Member of Parliament
- Write letters to Canadians currently serving in overseas missions

When choosing their career path, students particularly interested in international issues in general, or the management of conflicts in particular, could consider the following possibilities:

Here are some ideas:

- Country Analysis (Canadian Government)
- International Development Assistance (Non-governmental Organization)
- Professional Military (Canadian Forces)
- Foreign Service (Canadian Foreign Service)
- Advocacy
- Journalism
- Communication (United Nations, International Organizations)
- Research

A number of other professionals are also needed by United Nations Peacekeeping Missions. Engineers, doctors, social workers, lawyers, and translators are only a few examples of trades represented on the ground during a mission.

Finally, without having to travel, everyone can be involved by being aware of what happens in the world and the positions that our government adopts on a variety of international issues.

Questions for Discussion:

- How can students have a say in the degree to which Canada is involved in UN peacekeeping?
- What kinds of activities can be organized by students to raise awareness about the importance of peacekeeping?
- What types of careers should students consider if they want to be involved in the management of international conflicts?

Suggested Activities:

Organize a Peacekeeping Day in your school

Bibliography:

United Nation Employment <https://jobs.un.org/Galaxy/Release3/vacancy/vacancy.aspx>

United Nations Volunteers <http://www.unv.org/>

The Big Guide to Living and Working Overseas <http://www.workingoverseas.com/>

Activity 10:

INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING DAY IN YOUR SCHOOL ON MAY 29TH

Objectives

Students will:

- Summarize their knowledge about peacekeeping
- Present the information to other students in different formats
- Answer questions from other students

Requirements

The final products of other activities suggested (posters, presentations, resolutions, videos etc.)

Access to a large room such as a gymnasium or a library

Procedure

1. Ask students to animate the different activities suggested in this guide (Some will provide general information about peacekeeping, some will present their posters or even ask other students to make some, some will show videos and animate discussion, some will simulate a meeting of the Security Council and present their resolution).
2. Invite other students from your school, or even friends and parents, to come and participate in the different activities.

Variation

Do a smaller Peacekeeping Day with your class and dedicate the entire day to learning about peacekeeping and participating in related activities.