

STEAM Education & Leadership Workshops

Student Activity Lesson Plan - Culture of Peace: Transforming the School Environment

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Age range

9-12 years old

Learning objectives

- Explore the connection between the culture of peace and sustainable development, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UNESCO's concept (SDG 16).
- Understand how violence, bullying, racism, and discrimination impact the school environment.
- Develop skills to propose practical, artistic, and technological solutions that promote inclusion and peace.
- Foster empathy, critical thinking, and collaboration to transform the school environment.
- Apply design thinking to develop innovative STEM-based solutions that address violence and promote a culture of peace within the school environment.
- Analyze and interpret data related to school violence and exclusion to identify patterns and develop data-driven strategies for promoting inclusion and peace.

Structure of the lesson

- Introduction to SDG 16 (10 mins)
- Defining the School Environment (10 mins)
- Reflection Activity: "How Does This Affect Me?" (10 mins)
- Understanding Violence (20 mins)
- Building the Culture of Peace (20 mins)
- STEM and Technological Solutions (15 mins)
- Art and Awareness (15 mins)
- Reflection and Promises (20 mins)

Duration

120 minutes

Note to Educators

Foster a Safe and Inclusive Space

Given the sensitive topics of bullying, violence, and exclusion, establish a safe environment where students feel free to share their thoughts. Use open-ended questions like, "How do you think peace can transform our school?" to encourage participation while maintaining sensitivity.

Leverage Real-World Connections

Relate discussions to the students' school environment. For example, ask, "Have you noticed situations where someone felt excluded or unsafe?" Highlight how these instances can change when a culture of peace is fostered.

Encourage Critical Reflection

During the reflection activity, have students think deeply about their roles in the school environment. Prompt them with questions like, "What could you do to make someone feel included today?" This makes the connection between personal responsibility and a peaceful school culture.

Incorporate Collaborative Problem-Solving

Use group activities to map conflict scenarios and identify solutions. For example, students might brainstorm practical actions, like forming a peer mediation group or creating posters that promote anti-bullying messages.

Highlight Global and Local Perspectives

Show how SDG 16 (peace, justice, and inclusion) connects to global efforts, while linking it to the students' lives. Discuss local examples, like community initiatives to reduce violence, to emphasize the importance of their contributions.

Timing	Facilitator's actions	Students outcomes	Technical notes
0-30 min	<p>Introduction to SDG 16 (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present SDG 16: "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development." Highlight the three main pillars: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing violence. Ensuring access to justice. Building effective and inclusive institutions. Display images or simple graphics to illustrate the importance of peaceful societies. <p>Defining the School Environment (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Does our school environment promote peace and inclusion?" "What problems of violence or exclusion have you witnessed or heard about?" List responses on the board, categorizing them into violence, discrimination, or exclusion. <p>Reflection Activity: "How Does This Affect Me?" (10 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In pairs, students share how situations of violence or exclusion impact them personally. Each pair writes a sentence about how they want to transform the school. 	<p>Awareness: Students explore their awareness of issues like violence and exclusion, recognizing their roles and identities as part of the school community.</p>	<p>Use clear and engaging visuals to present concepts.</p> <p>Foster a safe space for sensitive discussions.</p>
31-70 min	<p>Understanding Violence (20 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present data on national challenges related to SDG 16, such as school violence and exclusion. Ask: "Do these challenges apply to our school?" Mapping Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In groups, students analyze fictional or real conflict scenarios in school. Identify causes, consequences, and possible solutions. Groups present their conclusions. <p>Building the Culture of Peace (20 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mini-Lecture: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain that a culture of peace involves dialogue, mediation, and mutual respect. Practical Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups propose specific actions, such as anti-bullying campaigns or conflict mediation clubs. Relate proposed actions to SDG 16 and its targets. 	<p>Connectedness: Students collaborate to identify problems and propose solutions, valuing diverse perspectives.</p> <p>Mastery: Students apply critical thinking and acquired knowledge to analyze and propose practical solutions.</p>	<p>Provide visual aids to support comprehension.</p> <p>Guide groups with examples of successful school initiatives.</p>
71-100 min	<p>STEM and Technological Solutions (15 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present simple ideas, such as apps for anonymous reporting. Groups discuss how to adapt these ideas to the school context. <p>Art and Awareness (15 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups create posters or slogans promoting peace. Examples: "Peace Begins with Empathy" or "Our School, Our Responsibility." 	<p>Agency: Students develop initiative and creativity by designing concrete solutions.</p>	<p>Provide materials like poster boards and markers.</p> <p>Offer examples to inspire creativity.</p>
101-120 min	<p>Reflection and Promises (20 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guiding questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "How can we apply what we learned today in practice?" "What changes can you lead in the school starting tomorrow?" Commitment Activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student writes a promise for peace and places it on a collaborative mural. 	<p>Wellbeing: Students reflect on their role as agents of change and develop a sense of belonging and optimism.</p>	<p>Create a safe and welcoming environment for students to share their ideas.</p>

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