

## If You Want Peace...

**Aims:** To explore the relation between languages and culture (of peace) and linguistic diversity between the same language.

**Level:** Secondary 1 (11-14 years)

**Duration:** Ten school hours (one hour is 45 min.)

**Source:**

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/82051251/webEDILICenrevisio/www/Suportdid/resllenpau.htm>. The teaching material has been adapted to the Nordic/Baltic context with the kind permission of ECML.

**Cross-curricular links:** History, art and culture.

**Objectives:**

- Becoming aware that non-verbal language varies from one culture to another or even among different generations of individuals from the same culture.
- Discovering how peace is made (or expressed) in other languages/cultures than the own.
- Developing art skills.

**Suggested procedure:** The procedure will be indicated throughout unit. The guidelines are addressed to the teachers and are separated from the actual worksheets.

**Extra activities/Further development:** We recommend to integrate other languages in this activity, that are relevant in your context, including minority and regional languages, e.g. languages represented in your classroom.

## Unit 1: Symbolizing peace

### 1. Pre-task

A brief introduction to the origin of the peace sign should serve as an excuse to get students think of which other symbols are used to represent this concept. Students should do the first activity in pairs to start the discussion.

#### Keys:

1. - The Peace Dove, a well-known symbol in Western societies.
2. - The Peace Crane (often used in Ancient Asian Art).
3. - The international peace symbol.
4. - The ancient Asian Peace Symbol (said to mean "PEACE: past, present and future").
5. - The Chinese Symbol of Ying and Yang. To a certain extent is a symbol of peace (one's inner harmony).
6. - Anti-war symbol used world wide in the parades against the invasion of Iraq.
7. - Origami peace crane (same as number 2).
8. - Pirate flag (obviously it indicated belligerent intentions, not a symbol to express peace).
9. - Recycling symbol, not a peace symbol.
10. - The Chinese Alphabet Character for Peace.
11. - The black ribbon against Terrorism.
12. - The Rainbow ribbon for peace.
13. - Bulbs are used to represent ideas, but neither a given one nor one associated with peace.
14. - The hand peace sign is also used to express peace.
15. - The scales are the symbol of justice. One could argue that justice brings peace, but they are not a peace symbol *per se*.

### 2. Task

The next two activities are done in pairs. In the first activity, students should recall sentences which represent a gesture for peace and in the second one, students should recall gestures of peace. Examples:

#### Sentences which represent a gesture for peace

- To smoke the pipe of peace
- To bury the hatchet
- To make peace.
- 
- 

#### Gestures of peace

- To wave a white flag.
- To kiss someone.
- To shake hands.
- To sign a peace treaty.
- To kiss a religious icon.

### 3. Final synthesis

The last activity should be done individually and aims at helping students realise that the gestures and the words used to express desires of peace vary not only according to a given (political, religious, familiar, etc.) setting, but also depending on the sex and/or age of the speakers.

After the completion of this exercise, students should share what they have written and could also comment the results of the previous exercises. We suggest that students are asked to do this activity as homework.

## Unit 2 - Words of peace

### 1. Pre-task

The first activity is simply an excuse to learn to recognise the word peace in other languages. The answers to this exercise cannot be foreseen and will depend on the students' backgrounds (and on whether they have done the homework or not).

The following web pages contain the word peace in various languages:

<http://www.freelang.net/expressions/peace.html>

<http://www.dhnet.org.br/direitos/bibpaz/Textos/Peace.htm>

### 2. Task

The next two activities are two games. In the first one, students are introduced to other languages in an entertaining way and in the second one they are asked to play with words.

#### Answers to exercise A:

A. Chinese

B. Greek

C. Russian

D. Hebrew

The word "shalom" **שלום** in Hebrew means "peace" and it is also a greeting for "hello" (answer b).

#### Answers to exercise B:

1. Portuguese paz

2. Romanian pace

3. Occitan patz

4. Latin pax

5. Esperanto paco

6. Basque bakea

7. French paix

8. Slovenian mir

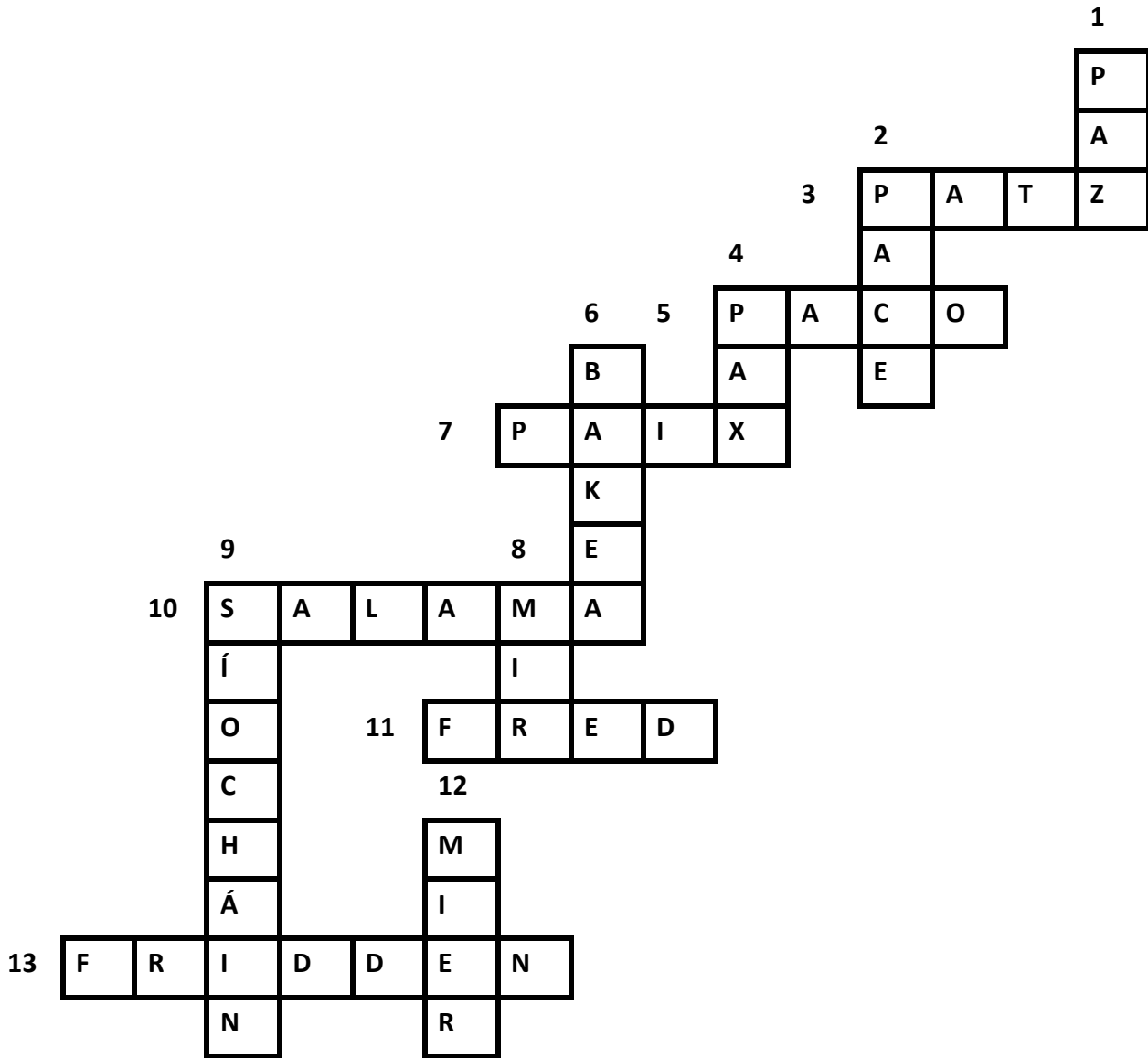
9. Irish (Gaelic) síocháin

10. Swahili salama

11. Norwegian fred

12. Slovak mier

13. Luxembourgian fridden



### 3. Final synthesis

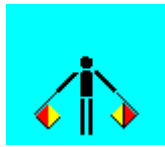
In small groups, the students interview different people and ask them which word, which symbol and which gestures they use to symbolise “peace” and in which contexts.



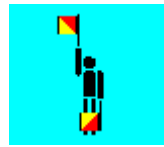
## Unit 1 - Symbolizing peace

### 1. Pre-task

The origin of the peace symbol is not clear. It seems it was first used in Great Britain in a Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament at their Aldermaston march in 1956 and it was later adopted by the student anti-war movement. It was designed from the naval code of semaphore, and represents the code letters for ND (Nuclear Disarmament). The Navy code of semaphore is the flag signalling system and the letters N and D are represented as follows:



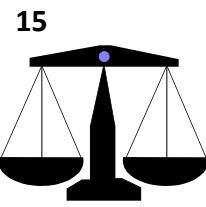
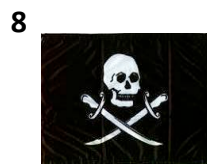
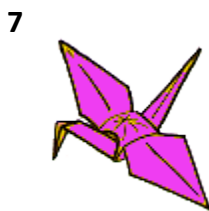
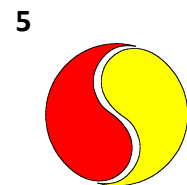
N



D

Look at the symbols and signs below and circle those which are also used to represent peace.

Compare your results with those of your classmates.



## 2. Tasks

A) Peace can also be represented through set phrases which symbolise gestures or actions, such as "Smoke the pipe of peace". How many set phrases do you know? List them in pairs and then share your list with your other classmates.

B) Which other gestures do you know? Who uses them? In which contexts? In pairs, fill in the grid below:

| GESTURES                       | CONTEXTS  |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>To wave a white flag</b>    | <b>Soldiers to their enemies to end a combat.</b> |
| <b>To kiss someone's cheek</b> |   |
| <b>To shake hands</b>          |   |
|                                |   |

### 3. Final synthesis



We have seen there are many ways of expressing peace: with actions, with words, with symbols, with gestures, but... How do you make peace? What do you say? Which gestures do you make? Individually, fill in the grid below and then share it with your classmates:

| Making peace with ..... | What do you say? | Which gestures do you make? |
|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Your father             |                  |                             |
| Your mother             |                  |                             |
| An elder brother        |                  |                             |
| An elder sister         |                  |                             |
| A younger brother       |                  |                             |
| A younger sister        |                  |                             |
| A male friend           |                  |                             |
| A female friend         |                  |                             |
| A male classmate        |                  |                             |
| A female classmate      |                  |                             |



## Unit 2 - Words of peace

1. Pre-task: In the previous session we dealt with different ways to symbolise or signal peace. Words are also signs. In which languages can you say the word “peace” or make peace? Fill in the grid below:

| Language | The word PEACE |
|----------|----------------|
|          |                |
|          |                |
|          |                |
|          |                |
|          |                |

### 2. Tasks

A) Below you have the word “peace” in Hebrew, Chinese, Russian and modern Greek. Can you recognise the alphabets of these languages ?

A. 和平

B. мир

c. ειρήνη

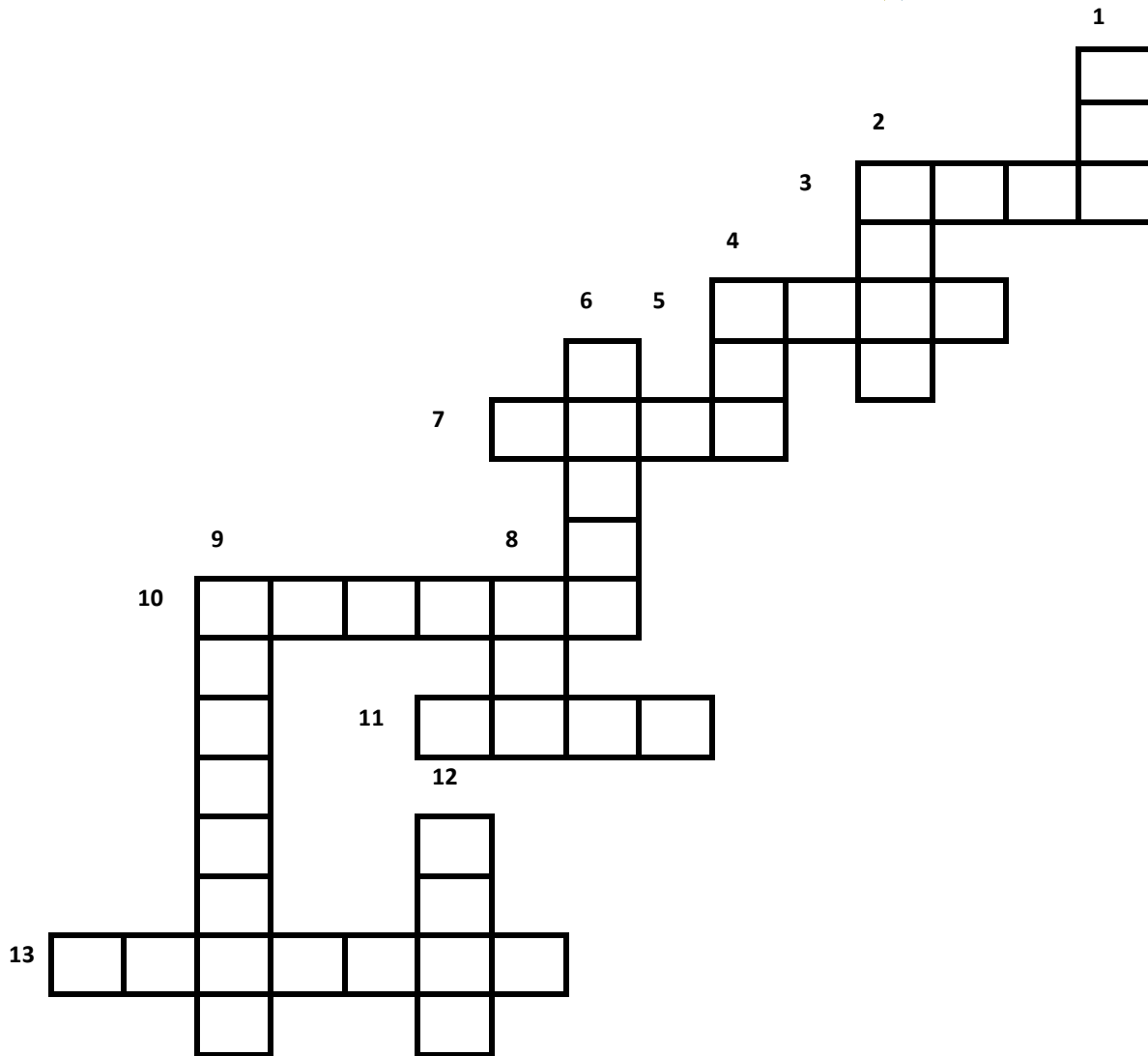
שלום

In Hebrew the word “peace” is pronounced “shalom” and it also means:.....

a) Thank you

b) Hello

c) Sorry



B) ✍ In the crossword you have the word “peace” in various languages. Try to identify them to resolve the crosswords:

|             |      |      |          |      |       |
|-------------|------|------|----------|------|-------|
| salama mier | mir  | pace | paz      | patz | paco  |
| fridden     | fred | pax  | síocháin | paix | bakea |

1. Portuguese, 2. Romanian, 3. Occitan, 4. Latin, 5. Esperanto, 6. Basque, 7. French, 8. Slovenian, 9. Irish (Gaelic), 10. Swahili, 11. Norwegian, 12. Slovak, 13. Luxembourgian

### 3. Final synthesis

In small groups, interview different people and ask them which word, which symbol and which gestures they use to symbolise “peace” and in which contexts.

Fill in as many grids like the one below as necessary:

|                                   |  |          |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------|--|
| Name:                             |  | Age:     |  |
| Sex:                              |  | Origin:  |  |
| Word for “peace”:                 |  |          |  |
| Symbol used to represent “peace”: |  |          |  |
| GREETINGS to express peace        |  | CONTEXTS |  |
|                                   |  |          |  |
|                                   |  |          |  |
|                                   |  |          |  |
| GESTURES to express peace         |  | CONTEXTS |  |
|                                   |  |          |  |
|                                   |  |          |  |
|                                   |  |          |  |