

'Petals of Peace' Project Ideas



The following are a few ideas for the 'Petals of Peace' project. Teachers and students are welcome to contribute their own ideas.

Create a paper lotus flower

- 1) Make a lotus flower to take home and share with your family. Share the meaning behind the lotus flower.
- 2) Fold another lotus flower as a symbol of extending the hand of friendship to other children in the world, particularly children less fortunate than you. This lotus flower can be presented as part of a community display to symbolize *'Petals of Peace'* blossoming in our local community and in our world.

Have a discussion about values

The values behind *'Petals of Peace'* are 'Truthfulness, Compassion, and Tolerance'. Discuss the meaning and importance of values that encourage a more peaceful world.

On the leaves of your lotus flower, write the three values, which you feel, are most important. What values are important to your family and to your school?

Write a poem, song or story dedicated to children who are facing difficult circumstances, like little Fadu's friends in China.

Little Australian - Chinese child, Fadu and her mom are sharing their family story in the hope that one day children from all over the world, particularly in countries such as China, will be free to live in peace and security. What would you like to say to Fadu and other children in her situation? Can you write some words of encouragement in your poem or story?

Class discussion about tolerance

Have a class discussion on how you can show tolerance, respect and understanding to people from different cultures to your own. Look at positive examples of how each person is unique. Explore what multicultural differences there are amongst your classmates and how can you respect the differences and unique qualities of each individual.

Research the meaning of the lotus flower

Did you know that the lotus flower is the only flower that grows up out of the mud yet stays pristine? Mud clings to the leaves of most plants, but not the lotus. The lotus flower is rich in meaning for many cultures. You can find a lot of information about the symbolism of the lotus flower on the Internet.

Write a story or draw a picture using the analogy of a lotus flower

Using the analogy of how the lotus flower grows, can you find some similarities for your own life when facing challenges or difficulties?

Lesson Plan Ideas

Some suggestions to complement Project Ideas:

Allowing for individual learning styles, students can follow up paper lotus folding activity with one of the following:

Aims: for children to respond in a positive way after becoming aware that some children in other countries have difficult lives.

1. Mapping

Locate China on world map. Compare size, population, and language of China with the United States. Use a computer or encyclopedia to find answers. How would you look after a new international student arriving in your class?

2. Art

Draw or paint a picture that reflects friendship and harmony. Write a short description of your picture.

3. Poem

Look up in a dictionary the meanings of peace and tolerance.

Write an acrostic poem for peace or tolerance: Read your poem to a friend; illustrate your poem.

4. Lists

Write about people who help you everyday, such as mom making you lunch or dad listening to you read or grandma remembering your birthday. Now think about how you can help others and add this to your list.

5. Interview

Write down some questions you would like to ask Fadu, the little Australian/Chinese girl who has traveled with her mom to many other countries.



'Petals of Peace' invites students of all ages to fold an origami lotus flower as a gesture of peace for our children's future