

# Lesson 3.2

## Peacebuilders in Action



### Rationale

In this activity, students explore peacebuilders in action. Learning from peacebuilders from the past can provide valuable lessons about what we need to know and do to build peace in the present. Additionally, learning about peacebuilders can leave students feeling empowered to embrace the role of peacebuilder themselves.

### Objectives

1. To learn about the work of peacebuilders around the world.
2. To identify lessons from the work of peacebuilders which students can apply to their own lives and efforts to build peace.

### Standards

- ◆ Individual Development and Identity
- ◆ Civic Ideals and Practices

**Time:** One class period (45 minutes)

### Materials

- Biography sheets about peacebuilders pulled from the Nobel Prize website [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/peace/laureates/](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/) or other sources
- Information Gathering Sheet for Peacebuilders* Worksheet
- Note-taking Sheet for Peacebuilders Exchange* Worksheet
- Poster board, markers, crayons, colored pencils (optional)

### Preparation

Prior to class, download biographies of peacebuilders who do international work and attach an *Information Gathering Sheet for Peacebuilders* Worksheet to each biography. Try to include an international selection of peacebuilders and individuals with whom the students are not familiar, i.e., individuals they did not mention in Lesson 3.1. If you

use the Nobel Peace Prize website, you can combine information from the biographies and press releases, but you may need to edit for length. If you have a media specialist, ask them to assist you in securing biographical material that suits your students' level.

In the interest of time, you may want to give biographies and note-taking sheets to students to complete for homework the night before.



45 minutes

## Procedures

### I. Essential Question:

What can we learn from peacebuilders?

### II. Motivation (1 minute)

Tell students they are about to meet some real life peacebuilders! They are going to do this by BECOMING a famous peacebuilder.

### III. Teacher Directed (2 minutes)

1. Tell students they will read biographical information about their peacebuilder, BECOME that peacebuilder, and then participate in a gathering of the International Peacebuilders Exchange, where peacebuilders get together to share their experiences and help others be more successful at building peace.
2. Tell students they will have 15 minutes to read about their peacebuilder, answer some questions about her/him, and then get into character (or they can do this for homework the night before). They will then have 20 minutes to meet other peacebuilders and take notes about what they learned about those people.

### IV. Guided Practice (15 minutes)

1. Distribute a biography and attached *Information Gathering Sheet for Peacebuilders Worksheet* to each student.
2. Have students read the bio sheet they have been assigned and answer the questions on their worksheet. Keep students informed of how much time they have left to take notes about their peacebuilder.

### V. Independent Practice (20 minutes)

1. After 20 minutes, hand out the *Note-taking Sheet for Peacebuilders Exchange Worksheet*.
2. Explain that they will circulate throughout the party to meet four other peacebuilders and take notes about them.
3. Begin the exchange.

## VI. Discussion (7 minutes)

1. After 20 minutes, end the exchange and have all students take their seats.
2. Lead a discussion using these questions:
  - ◆ Which peacebuilders had you never heard of before?
  - ◆ What is one thing you learned about a peacebuilder you met at the gathering?
  - ◆ What lessons can we learn from these peacebuilders that will help us build peace in our lives and in the world?
  - ◆ Having learned about the characteristics and actions of international peacebuilders, can you begin to envision yourself as a peacebuilder? What would it look like if you were a peacebuilder?

### Extension Activity 1

Have students create an inspirational poster about a peacebuilder. Divide students into groups of three. Have them decide on one of the peacebuilders they met at the exchange to focus on for this activity. Distribute poster board, markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc. Ask students what their peacebuilder would say to encourage others to build peace. Tell them to create an inspirational poster that shares what their peacebuilder would say. When they are done, have each group share their poster.

### Extension Activity 2

To build upon the activity of becoming a famous peacebuilder, have students imagine a future where they are now famous peacebuilders. Have them write a short news article that profiles and describes who they are and what they have done in their life to be identified as a peacebuilder.

**Note:** If you are visiting the Global Peacebuilding Center at the United States Institute of Peace, the Witness Stations there will enable you to see some of these peacebuilders in action. Tell your class, "Let's meet some of the real people!" and watch the witness videos. If not visiting the Global Peacebuilding Center, consider watching the videos online at [www.buildingpeace.org](http://www.buildingpeace.org).

## Lesson 3.2 WORKSHEET: INFORMATION GATHERING SHEET FOR PEACEBUILDERS

**Teachers:** Attach this sheet to each student's individual bio sheet.

### *Prepare for the Peacebuilders Exchange!!!*

1. Look at the attached biographical information. Write down your NEW name from the top of the page.  
My real name is \_\_\_\_\_, but now I am \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Read over the bio sheet and answer the questions below. You will share the answers with other people who want to learn about you in your peacebuilder role.
  - a. List three interesting facts about you.
  - b. With whom did you work to build peace?
  - c. What strategies did you use to build peace (listening skills, negotiation, mediation, etc.)?
  - d. What kind of changes were the result of your work?
  - e. What is the most important thing other people should know about you?

## Lesson 3.2 WORKSHEET: NOTE-TAKING SHEET FOR PEACEBUILDERS EXCHANGE

**Directions:** Write at least four pieces of information about four other peacebuilders that you meet during the gathering. Take notes in the spaces below.

1. Name of the peacebuilder you met: \_\_\_\_\_

At least four things you learned about the peacebuilder:

1	
2	
3	
4	

2. Name of the peacebuilder you met \_\_\_\_\_

At least four things you learned about the peacebuilder:

1	
2	
3	
4	

3. Name of the peacebuilder you met: \_\_\_\_\_

At least four things you learned about the peacebuilder:

1	
2	
3	
4	

4. Name of the peacebuilder you met \_\_\_\_\_

At least four things you learned about the peacebuilder:

1	
2	
3	
4	