The Peace One Day Global Education Resource

What will you do to make peace on 21 September?
Tell us at www.peaceoneday.org
Try for Peace

Background for Teachers:

On his travels Jeremy saw first-hand how sport can be used as a unifying influence, and now Peace One Day is using the power of rugby to spread the message of Peace Day with Try For Peace. The idea is simple: to see matches played on 21 September in as many member states of the UN and beyond as possible. These matches will unite people from different communities and different cultures. And all you need is a ball and a patch of land. Visit www.peaceoneday.org/try-peace for more information.

There is a longstanding synergy between sports and peace; before organising a Try For Peace rugby match in your school, ask students to explore these two famous examples of peace manifestation through sport below.

Rugby World Cup Final, 1995, South Africa v New Zealand: it was the first major sporting event to take place in South Africa after the end of apartheid. Only five years after his release from serving twenty-eight years of a life sentence for sabotage, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, President Nelson Mandela, stepped into the home dressing-room to wish the team good luck and then greeted the teams on the pitch in the traditional manner before the first whistle. He proudly wore a Springbok jersey which to that day had been seen as a symbol of division and oppression, epitomising the evil of apartheid. Rugby had been held by the Afrikaner community as their sport and to have their black president sporting their jersey was an extraordinary political statement to which the almost exclusively white crowd responded by chanting his name. The sport of rugby was used as an instrument of unity and reconciliation; that day barriers were broken down through the power of rugby.

The Olympic Truce is believed to have begun in the eighth century BC and was observed in some form for 12 centuries. The Truce protected participants, often through war-torn regions, as they travelled to the games. The spirit of the Truce has been revived since the emergence of the modern Olympic movement, with its ideals to serve peace, friendship and understanding in the world.

UN General Assembly Resolution 55/282 calls on individuals to observe Peace Day. 21 September, therefore has unique value as a catalyst for global unification and presents an unparalleled opportunity each year for individuals, particularly young people, to become the driving force behind such a vision. As these examples show, utilising sport can be one of the most powerful and engaging means available.

Purpose of the Lesson:

In this lesson, students will explore the unifying influence of sports and organise a Try For Peace rugby match in school that will focus on bringing together people of diverse cultures. This activity could be part of your school’s Peace Day celebration.

Lesson Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, students should be able to:

• Actively promote interest in, and appreciation of, sports as a unifying influence and a conduit for fostering a culture of peace and non-violence.
• Participate in planning and organising a Try For Peace rugby match in school on Peace Day, 21 September.
Introducing the Lesson:

Present relevant background information, the purpose of the lesson, and the learning objectives.

Teacher/Learner Activity 1 – Organising your Try For Peace Rugby Game:

- Hand out Resources A and B and ask various students to read paragraphs from A Spectator’s View and Mandela and Sport. Ask students to think about the following questions while listening to the words.
  - Think about the reason for wearing a Springbok jersey.
  - What might Nelson Mandela have been feeling?
  - What could have happened?
  - Why do you suppose people still talk about this event?
- Introduce the idea of a Try For Peace rugby match, or other sporting event, for Peace Day. What might be some powerful reasons, and resulting benefits from it?
- Refer to Resource C and Resource D, review and explain to the class (the whole class could work together on this, or the class could be broken into Action Committees of 4 or 5).
- Students should discuss and agree on the objective of the Action Committee (to organise a Try For Peace activity for September 21).
- Students should select a chairperson and a minute-taker.
- Read over with the students Resource E, Try For Peace Brief, and make sure each student has a role and participates.
- Students should write down any tasks they agree to complete.
- Students should agree on a date, time and location for the next meeting.
- At the next meeting, students should be prepared to develop and agree on a timeline for the project.

Teacher/Learner Activity 2 – Film screening and/or book review and analysis:

**BOOK:** Playing the Enemy: Nelson Mandela and the Game That Made a Nation by John Carlin

**FILM:** Invictus (2009) directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon

- Ask the students to read the book and answer the following questions:
  - Did this book give you any new ideas about yourself? Why?
  - Pretend you are one of the Springbok players in the book. Write a diary about the happenings in your life on the day of the Rugby World Cup Final.
  - Find one word that describes Nelson Mandela in the book very well. Give five reasons for your choice of word.
  - Who do you think the author intended to read this book and why?
- Ask the students to watch the movie and answer the following questions:
  - What is the message of this film? Do you agree or disagree with it?
  - What part of the story told by the movie was the most powerful? Why?
  - If you had a chance to ask a character in this film a question, what would it be?
  - What were you thinking as you finished watching the film?
Teacher/Learner Activity 3 – Opening Ceremony Speech:

- To help solidify learning and to keep the project in focus, ask students to write a short piece (one or two paragraphs) outlining the reasons for the class’s decision to organise a Try For Peace event to celebrate Peace Day.
- As they write, ask students to consider the history of sport (and sports people) as a unifying influence – sport as a catalyst for intercultural cooperation (the 1995 Rugby World Cup Final, the Olympic Truce, communication and teamwork). The paragraphs will form the basis of the actual speech to be made at the Try For Peace event, and could also be the basis of other written materials such as articles, posters, press releases, or letters to parents and community.
- Ask volunteers to read out their draft Opening Ceremony Speech. Are any lines especially inspirational?
- Keep all the inspirational lines together for later use in preparing the written materials. They can then be given to the students who are responsible for putting the final written materials together.

Reflection/Ideas to Discuss:

- Review and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Action Committee.
- Did the students stick to their objectives?
- Ask various students to share their feelings about their participation in the Action Committee.

Review the purpose of the lesson and learning objectives to determine mastery.
A SPECTATOR’S VIEW

IT WAS JUNE 24TH 1995, HE EMERGED INTO THE BRIGHT WINTER SUNSHINE, STEPPED ONTO THE LUSH FIELD AND PULLED ON A CAP. HIS LONG-SLEEVE GREEN RUGBY JERSEY WAS UNTUCKED AND BUTTONED RIGHT UP TO THE TOP, A STYLE ALL HIS OWN. ON THE BACK, A GOLD NO. 6, BIG AND BOLD.

Within seconds, the chants went up from the fans packed into Ellis Park stadium in the heart of Johannesburg, “Nelson! Nelson! Nelson!” Nelson Mandela, South Africa’s first black president, was wearing the colours of the South African rugby team and 65,000 white supporters were joyously shouting his name. Mandela stretched out his hand as he approached a line of muscular, young, mostly white South African players. He was crossing a chasm, both in sport and in politics. And yet, he made the journey smoothly and with a smile.

It was 1995, the Rugby World Cup final – rugby’s biggest game. The Springboks won, beating New Zealand (the top team in the world) in extra time of a nerve-racking final, but yet the game was so much more. It was nation-defining for South Africa, a transcendent moment in the transformation from apartheid to multi-racial democracy.

Mandela, still in his jersey, handed the glistening gold William Webb Ellis World Cup trophy to the blond-haired South African captain Francois Pienaar – an ideal picture of a new South Africa. Mandela reached out his left hand and laid it on Pienaar’s right shoulder, patting it gently. And then Mandela raised both his arms in celebration, smiling gleefully with obvious and undisguised delight as Pienaar lifted the cup.

Mandela then said, “Sport can create hope, where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination.”

He may just have saved a country by pulling on that green and gold jersey with a prancing antelope on the left breast. The Springboks were dear to the hearts of South Africa’s white Afrikaners and loathed by the nation’s black majority. By donning their emblem, Mandela reconciled a nation fractured and badly damaged by racism and hatred.
Mandela showed an incisive understanding of the role sport plays in millions of lives. He said in a speech five years after that rugby match, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire, it has the power to unite people in a way that little else does."

He repeated his success in 1996, this time wearing a South Africa national football team shirt as Bafana Bafana claimed the African Cup of Nations title, again on home soil.

He also was pivotal in helping South Africa eventually win the right to host the 2010 Football World Cup, the first in Africa and perhaps the biggest test of South Africa’s progress, of its coming of age, just 16 years into its young democracy. South Africa came through it with high praise, sweeping aside the doubters — as Mandela said his country would.

Mandela’s last public appearance for South Africa before his death in 2013 was at that Football World Cup Final in Soweto, the township closely connected to the struggle against apartheid and the centre of the world again for a few weeks — this time in celebration.
**Action Committee Guidelines**

As a starting point for organising your own Peace Day activities, this step-by-step guide will help you establish an Action Committee and an agenda for your events.

### Getting Started

1. Select a Chair and Minute-taker.
2. The Chairperson directs the meeting.
3. The Minute-taker makes notes.
4. Agree on what the meeting is for: the objective.
5. Agree on all the other roles.
6. Make an agenda, a list of points or tasks to complete.
7. Discuss each point on the agenda.
8. Agree on actions by votes.
9. Agree on a date for the next Action Committee meeting.

**Remember**

Speak one at a time. Make positive contributions and listen to others.

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**Next meeting date:**

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**Homework**

- Reflect on the meeting and write up what went well and what could be improved next time.
- Write a plan of what you will do next: e.g., if you plan to take photographs, what kinds of photos will you take? Where will you take them? How will you get hold of the equipment? Do you need to get the photos developed?
- Implement the plan before the next Action Committee meeting.
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TRY FOR PEACE BRIEF

USE THIS WORKSHEET TO ORGANISE YOUR TRY FOR PEACE EVENT FOR PEACE DAY. THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE BASED ON A RUGBY UNION MATCH; HOWEVER, YOU MAY WANT TO ORGANISE A FOOTBALL MATCH (ONE DAY ONE GOAL), TRACK AND FIELD DAY, OR SOME OTHER SPORTING EVENT. READ THE ‘GETTING STARTED’ SECTION FIRST TO THINK ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND WHAT YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE. YOU MIGHT WANT TO ESTABLISH AN ACTION COMMITTEE AND RECORD YOUR IDEAS AND TASKS USING A COMMITMENT COUNTDOWN DIARY.

GETTING STARTED

- Which type of rugby will you play? Union (full contact, 15s or 7s) or touch (6-a-side)?
- How many teams will be involved?
- Is it one game or a mini-tournament?
- Are the teams made up of players from your class, year, or are you looking for volunteers from the whole school?
- If your school has a ‘house’ system, perhaps each house could put a team forward.
- Do you want to organise a game or mini-tournament with another school?
- Who will be captain of each team?
- Each team needs a name. Ideas could be voted on by the class, house, or team.
- Perhaps each team could take on the name of a national team.
- Are there local sport grounds that may wish to host a game or mini-tournament? Who will contact them?

TRAINING

- Teams could train in Physical Education classes or at a rugby club. Do you need to set up a separate training programme? Who will do that?
- Invite local professional rugby players to help with training. Who will contact them?
- Would the science department like to run a sports science/nutrition class?

LETTING PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THE GAME

- Who will put together promotional materials, posters, press releases, school magazine articles, etc.? Promotional materials need to explain the reason behind Try For Peace, i.e., Peace Day, 21 September, and Peace One Day.
- Who will contact the local newspapers, radio stations, etc.?
- Talk to your teacher about inviting parents to the game.
- Can you make an announcement in assembly to help build interest?

THE DAY OF THE GAME

- Who will referee?
- Who will write the speech for the opening ceremony? Who will read it out? The Head Teacher?
- Will the teams wear special jerseys to raise awareness of Peace Day? They could be designed in school.
- Do you want to make badges or medals for everyone involved? Who will make them?
- Is the winning team awarded a trophy? Where can you find a trophy? A local sports shop may want to donate one in return for some publicity.
- Do you want to arrange a fair play award for the Sportsperson of the Match, to encourage peaceful play and respect?
- Who will arrange for refreshments for the teams and how will they be paid for?
- Do you want to find cheerleaders?
- Find a game photographer and someone to film the game. Where can you find the camera?
- Will there be refreshments available for the spectators?