



cultivating peace

taking action

Ready-to-use student activities



A teaching resource to support education in global issues, sustainable development, social justice and active citizenship

Designed for use in grades 10, 11 and 12

- Social Science and Social Studies
- History, Geography and Civics
- Politics, Law and World Issues
- Sociology and Psychology

Taking Action is the second resource in the Cultivating Peace educational series.



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS



What we do or choose not to do is shaped by our beliefs about how the world works. Each of us carries a set of assumptions, or world view, that acts like a filter for our ideas and actions. Key assumptions in the predominant world view — that human violence is inevitable, natural resources are endless and consumerism is a right — shape what we learn, how we think and our willingness to act. The goal of this resource is to provide learning opportunities that challenge these assumptions in ourselves and in our students, so that together we will be empowered to take action for a culture of peace.

Peace is more than the absence of war. It is justice, equity and freedom from oppression, discrimination and all forms of violence. It is compassion and empathy for those we see in our communities and for those whose faces we will never see and whose voices are silenced. It is economic and environmental security. It is cultural dignity and appreciation for all of the unique manifestations of the human spirit. Because of this, the **Taking Action** resource includes a wide range of issues relating to this definition of peace, including sustainable development, economic disparity, fair trade, human rights and government spending priorities.

Awareness alone is not enough. Students need to have optimism and confidence that their actions can make a difference, and they need to be assured that there is no one “right” way to take action. We will not all be leaders of great social

... the root of the interlocking crises of our times, including war, the environment, the North-South gap, ethnic and other conflicts ... will not be solved without a human transformation — a human revolution.

Education is our best hope.

Daisaku Ikeda, president of Soka Gakkai International

movements, but we all can make a significant difference in the lives of those around us and in the lives of those to whom we are connected by the threads of global citizenship. The materials in this resource provide a wide range of role models for taking tangible action in innovative, surprising or quiet ways. Educating for change is not about preaching to students that they must act; rather, it is about helping them understand

that inaction is also a choice and perhaps the truest form of direct action.

As teachers, it is your mandate to meet objectives for course content and skill acquisition. This resource is about the intersection of curriculum expectations with our joint responsibility to encourage active global citizenship in our youth. It provides students with concrete opportunities to build skills — in communication, inquiry, application and understanding — and it also constructs the foundation for engaged, socially minded human beings who have the ability and the willingness to take action and make a difference in themselves and in the lives of others.

We can all do our share to redeem our world in spite of all absurdities and all frustrations and all disappointments.

Abraham Heschel

Imagine what thinking and actions would be possible if each of us shared that world view.

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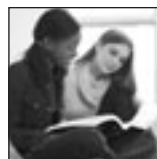
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This is the second resource in the Cultivating Peace series. A full description of the first resource, *Cultivating Peace in the 21st Century*, is included on page 66 of this document. To order free copies, contact us at info@classroomconnections.ca or 1-888-882-8865. All Cultivating Peace resources, as well as additional support material, can be downloaded at www.cultivatingpeace.ca.



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Individual opinions presented in the following material do not necessarily represent the views of the sponsors of this program.

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Who We Are

Classroom Connections is a non-profit organization dedicated to instigating positive societal change by producing progressive educational resources for Canada's youth. Our award-winning resources are ready-to-use, curriculum-aligned and innovative in content and pedagogy. Since 1997, we have provided more than 15 free support resources to 80% of schools nationwide. To view our full range of materials, please visit our website at www.classroomconnections.ca.

Classroom Connections works with major education organizations in Canada (such as the Canadian Education Association and the Canadian Home and School Federation) and with a network of teachers from across the country. Through these partnerships, we determine gaps in available resources and develop program ideas to meet these gaps. We then work to match these program needs with potential funders and assemble a steering committee of field experts to advise on program development. New resources are pilot tested in schools and reviewed by educational specialists and Curriculum Services Canada (www.curriculum.org). School districts that have registered with us are alerted to the new resource, and it is delivered to the district for distribution within their schools.

Registration is free and the resources are provided to the schools at no cost. We believe strongly that equal access is an important factor in a democratic education system. Funding for our projects is raised through a combination of foundation, business and government donations and sponsorships. We abide by strict partnership guidelines to ensure our funding is responsible and ethical.

To find out more about our resources or to get information on registering your district, please visit our website (www.classroomconnections.ca) or contact us at info@classroomconnections.ca or 1-888-882-8865.

The Cultivating Peace Initiative

The goal of the Cultivating Peace initiative is to create classroom-ready resources for schools across Canada that will assist teachers and community leaders to educate for change. The programs created through this initiative will encourage youth to respect diversity, think globally, value human rights, recognize injustice and respond to conflict with methods other than violence.

Module One: Cultivating Peace in the 21st Century

The first resource in the series, *Cultivating Peace in the 21st Century*, was delivered to schools in the fall of 2002. It was designed to actively engage secondary school students (grades 10–12) in constructing a deep understanding of the concept of peace, causes of violence, components of true security and the value of human rights. The full program includes a teacher's guide and a video created by the National Film Board. Please see page 66 for a complete description of this resource. To order free copies, contact us at info@classroomconnections.ca.

Module Two: Cultivating Peace — Taking Action

This resource encourages students to examine their own beliefs regarding the need for change in our world and their personal responsibility in taking action. The preconditions necessary for a culture of peace are explored through the examination of global issues in sustainable development, economic disparity, fair trade, human rights and consumerism. Students are given opportunities to explore the range of actions possible, the ways in which change occurs, the barriers to participation and the factors that support youth involvement. The resource includes a teacher's guide, a video, a poster series and a student guide to taking action. It is designed for use in grades 10–12.

New Directions

Classroom Connections will continue to develop resources in the Cultivating Peace series. If you have ideas for resources that you would like to see developed or you are interested in writing, reviewing or pilot testing new materials in this initiative, please contact us at info@classroomconnections.ca.