



How to Create a

Peace Garden



Guide for schools

OBJECTIVES:

- Dedicate, maintain and nurture the peace garden as a symbol of hope for the future and our school's commitment to peace - peace within ourselves and our school community, peace within the global family and peace with nature.
- Respect and promote by example
- Encourage curriculum development which includes cross-cultural understanding, environmental studies, and alternative conflict resolution.
- Introduce and apply methods of alternative conflict resolution in resolving conflicts which might arise.
- Use our Peace Garden for celebrations of peace and the environment, and in appreciation of the rich cultural heritage of the students and faculty of our school, and our community.
- Welcome and share our place of peace with other members of our community.
- Nurture the soil through scientific knowledge and environmental protection of the local ecosystem.
- Celebrate peace through music, dance, language arts, sculpture, symbols, design and other art forms.



HOW TO GET STARTED:

Make this a whole school program.



1. Principals and staff choose the site which has to have good drainage. You will need to address the compacted ground before you begin planting. Also discuss soil types, water access, class and school use. As students participate they will discuss how to protect the garden and the plants. Please involve the School Board, grounds man, and requests of help can be made to local Municipal Parks personnel.

2. Use the language arts for the whole school to hold class discussions around their Peace Garden. This includes design aspects that focus on peace and protecting bio-diversity. Discuss with students their design ideas and what they would like to have in the garden. *See the design sheet at the end of Kit. Students can visit the outside space using mathematical and spacial concepts before drawing their personal designs.*

3. Each student in the school is to draw a design of their own peace garden, on 1 cm squares on 8 ½ x 11 cm papers. The school then chooses a compilation of the designs. The designs can also be made into class or school booklets to be shared with other schools in the district, or taken with a student when they are on holiday to present to family and friends for their schools.

4. Discuss with your class, individuals feelings about the peace garden. Ask students to use all their 'senses' as they select plant species. Student's then write a page about their own peace garden concepts.

5. Make a large poster with all the words involved with a peace garden. Compose a song; write a poem or a word picture.

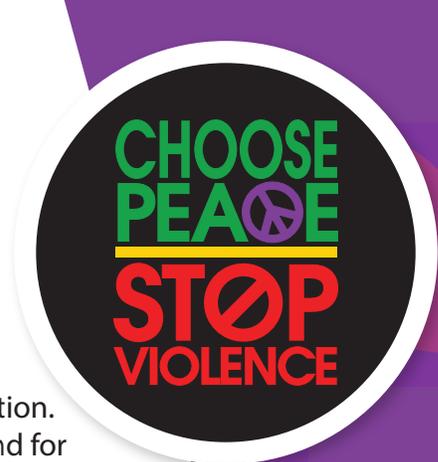
6. The Path of Peace: The school booklets can spread by sharing ideas with other schools in their Local School Board. Students can take their booklet when they move schools or post to a school they know might need the help of a peace garden. They could also share internationally by through their own school peace garden website.

7. Peace Garden Newsletter: Create a peace garden newsletter to be distributed throughout the community.

8. Teachers can invent ways to use the peace garden as a tool to aid the school curriculum. The planting and management by every class, with their own garden that is part of the reason that the school continues to become safer and the community become involved and remain involved.



9. MAIN ITEMS IN THE PEACE GARDEN:



- a. The Dream Bench and the Friendship Bench for friendly conflict resolution. The Friendship Bench is a place to learn the skills of breathing to relax, and for solving conflicts through compassion, communication and friendship – all lessons from nature.
- b. Planting vegetables and fruits for food security which can help the food banks. Many schools plant a “pizza garden” - green peppers, tomatoes, basil, onions, mushrooms etc.
- c. A healing garden - eg: herbs that can be used for stopping the itch from mosquito bites, a cancer garden, plants that have a soothing smell. This is particularly useful for students who are ‘acting out.
- d. The path of peace could be walked with eyes closed, to identify species by touch, smell, or rubbing a leaf. It could also have a series of sounds, both natural and sculptured, that can be recorded, listed and written about
- e. Other gardens could be Roof Top gardens, an indoor tropical garden with a place for special objects, or a water garden.
- f. Use the following “Elements of Learning” as you develop your school curriculum. You may like to consider these as you link and expand your ideas.
 - i. I : Information Input.
 - ii. O : Organizing the information.
 - iii. D: Demonstrate the organization.
 - iv. E: Expressive response to the information through the arts.





How to Create a Peace garden

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DEDICATION CEREMONY:

Time: One hour.



- Most of the ceremony to be written and presented by students.

Atmosphere: Dignified and Joyful. Inspiring words, not long speeches.

- Areas to consider

- * Peace within ourselves
- * Peace in our families
- * Peace within our school and our community
- * Peace within the Global Family
- * Peace with Nature

- **Essays:** A any kind of multi-media project, on any one or any combination of the areas above.

- **Invite:** Local Politicians, your local Mayor and all other VIP's in your area.

Include your Parents. Choose Peace/Stop Violence requests that we are invited to attend all dedication ceremonies.

- **Music:** Create songs, or an operetta or other orchestral events using a variety of musical instruments. Use known songs - eg: "From a distance the world looks blue and green". Music - eg: Louis Armstrong "It's a Wonderful World".

- **Dance:** Either to the written word or music reflecting the evolution of the Peace Garden. Simple costumes, use of rainbow ribbons and flowing materials.

- **Poetry:** Various cultural statements, poems to be read aloud; paving stones with symbols etched into them; bring footprints from the garden to the door of each class. Students to read poems, dance in the garden, sing songs they know or have composed. All these can go into a book for official guests.

- **Checklist:** Tell what happened within the school as the project was developed. Look at the checklist. The whole project is to be achieved a little at a time, so that it can be slowly integrated into the school curriculum.

- **Participation:** How can everyone present participate? - by spreading a handful of wood bark chips; turning the soil with a 'previously dedicated shovel'; by joining hands and singing a song; tree planting and presentation of 'Peace Trees' to students.

- **Distribute:** "Credo of the Peaceful Traveler" bookmarks on medium blue card representing the 'Blue Planet' as viewed from space.



How to Create a Peace garden

QUESTIONS:

Focus: Sustainability & Security Education

1. What does peace mean to you personally?
2. In a classroom, what direction would you take, for class security, through peace education?
3. How does peace & sustainability education aid in school security - bullying?
4. What is sustainability education?
5. How would you use a peace garden?
6. Design your school's peace garden so that its focus is on global and local issues.





How to Create a Peace garden

DESIGN YOUR OWN PEACE GARDEN.

The elements of design are very important within the shape of your garden. This is a whole school math and spacial activity. Basic requirements to include: a path of peace, two friendship benches or logs, a peace tree, peace rock logo.

One square = 3 meters.

