

Keeping the Peace: The Role of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force”

Holy Turpin
Jodi Shell

Western Oregon University
Preservice Teachers: Social Studies

TITLE: Keeping the Peace

OVERVIEW: Students learn about the history and role of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force. They identify locations where these Peacekeeping Forces

served since 1948. They analyze local conflicts where the Peacekeeping Forces are stationed today.

SUBJECT AREA/ GRADE LEVEL: Social Science Analysis / 7-12

STATE CONTENT STANDARDS / BENCHMARKS:

- Acquire and organize materials from primary and secondary sources.
- Identify and analyze an issue.

OBJECTIVES: The students will demonstrate the ability to:

- Gather and utilize information on current peacekeeping missions and activities.
- Analyze, comprehend and present information regarding the specific conflict they researched.
- Develop and organize a poster in a clear, comprehensive manner which they will present to the class
- Prepare for a question and answer period on their particular conflict.

MATERIALS:

Newspapers, Internet access, and Journals

(http://www.cnn.com/WORLD/9510/un_50/peacekeeping/index.html)

Poster board

Art supplies including markers, construction paper, glue and scissors.

PRESENTATION STEPS:

1. Ask students what they know about the United Nations Peacekeeping Force.
2. Ask the students to read the description of the Peacekeeping Forces. Conduct a class discussion around the following questions:
 - i. When was this force created and why?
 - ii. What was the first international conflict in which these troops were deployed?
 - iii. Give examples of places and conflicts where these troops have been deployed.
 - iv. What kinds of rules govern where and when the troops may be deployed.
3. Ask students to research where UN Peacekeeping Troops have served since 1948 (the web site above is helpful). On a large world map, have students place Avery dots to identify these locations. Ask if there are any patterns in the distribution of the conflicts?
3. Working in groups of three, students are assigned one current conflict in which UN Peacekeeping Troops currently serve and to analyze their role. They are to research the conflict and prepare a poster to share with the class. In their presentation, they should be prepared to answer questions on the issue..

4. Students should be provided with a detailed assignment description, time lines, and grading criteria.
5. Time will be provided to research the topic.
6. Student will present poster and explain the activity to the class.
7. A class discussion will take place to examine various topics, how they relate, and how they affect the students and others.

ASSESSMENT: Students will be graded on the depth of research and information gathered as well as the clarity and organization of their poster and presentation. The students should be able to demonstrate how their selected conflict affects communities in the area as well as identifying the global implications of the crisis. Students will be able to answer questions regarding the issue they researched.

ADAPTATIONS:

Use heterogeneous or mixed-ability groupings. Assign different roles to individuals in the groups.

EXTENSIONS: Have a debate on the merits and effectiveness of the Peacekeeping
The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

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These forces were founded in 1948 by the authority of the United Nations [Security Council](#) to help establish or maintain peace in areas of armed conflict. The forces were awarded the 1988 Nobel Prize for Peace for representing the world community's will to employ peaceful methods to resolve conflicts.

The Peacekeeping Forces were first organized to monitor a truce between Israel and its Arab neighbours in 1948. Members of the UN Secretariat and a few soldiers stationed themselves in the disputed area of Palestine to observe and report any violations of the truce. As conflicts arose in other parts of the world, such as the discord between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, the UN sent groups of observers and lightly armed military forces. In 1956 [Dag Hammarskjöld](#), then UN secretary-general, outlined the guidelines for future employment of peacekeeping forces: permission of all disputing parties is required before intervention; negotiation and persuasion are to be used instead of violence; only the UN Security Council may give orders to the Peacekeeping Forces; and all member nations of the UN must financially support the forces. The latter requirement often is not observed because some member nations refuse for political reasons to pay dues for the forces.

Despite such problems with unwilling financial supporters, the UN Peacekeeping Forces continue to work toward peace around the world. They are often employed in areas where a cease-fire is established, but no formal peace treaty has yet been signed, or they maintain a buffer zone between disputing parties. The forces' activities since receiving the Nobel Prize have included helping Namibia make its transition to independence in 1989 and serving as a buffer along the Iraq-Kuwait border following the Persian Gulf War in 1991.