

Bridging Religious Cultures through Peer Learning

Summary

The activity presents to students a way to build bridges between different religions and cultures through peer learning by arranging small scale workshops in schools, involving groups of children from different religions.

Description of the activity

Students are divided in groups according to their religion (or lack of such). Each group receives an assignment to represent a story from the sacred texts of their religion or to represent a religious tradition they follow at home. The representation must be done in the form of a short play; students from each group have to present in front of their peers. Students must be left free to choose any story, myth or tradition. Students have to be guided by the teacher to identify: objects, locations, actions from the story and go through each of these with the group turning them into action. E.g. how do we show the desert (through which Moses led the Jewish people for example)? How do we show a sea (how do we show how the Red sea was divided)? Who will be God? How shall we show God interacting with the people? Who will be the different characters? Etc.

Once students have run through all the actions, the leader of the group reads the story and the group do the actions as they have learned them, prompted by the words being spoken. Once they have been through it they can rehearse and present.

Activity structure

- **Preferred premises of the activity:** the activity can be held in class or in a gym or outside in the school yard or a park.
- **Resources needed:** The activity doesn't require any specific resources. If students would like they can prepare by themselves what they need for the presentations.
- **Recommended number of people participating:** between 15 and 30 students as maximum number divided in smaller groups of 5-6 people.
- **Previous knowledge of participants necessary:** No previous knowledge necessary for this activity.
- **Activity duration:** the activity can be held as continuing events during the term.

Learning Objectives

Students to acquire knowledge about different religions and the traditions related to them.

Expected Outcomes

Students are expected to learn to respect and appreciate the religious differences between people. With this activity students can see how children from different backgrounds deal with life.

Target group

Students between 12 and 18 years of age





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Subject of the curriculum in which the activity could be implemented

Literature
Philosophy
History
Languages
Geography

Learning style of this activity

Visual, Verbal, Physical, Social

Learning objects to be used with this activity

Explore the training program about how to support the organization of peer learning activities, using a theatrical approach <http://www.vision-erasmusplus.eu/pages/training.php>

Variations of the activity

The activity can be continued by student groups changing their “background” from which they are coming from and each group to present its vision about a religion and traditions different from their own.



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