Lesson Ideas

These curriculum-linked, Harmony Day-themed lesson ideas and activity sheets offer a range of learning experiences for lower primary students.

Broad learning outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about the meaning and significance of Harmony Day.
- Students will be exposed to and learn about other cultures.
- Students will recognise ways in which they can contribute to Harmony Day.

English

- Students to write an acrostic poem using the ‘Harmony Day’ activity sheet (NEW for 2017).
- Students to get to know their classmates by completing the ‘Classroom Diversity’ activity sheet.
- Students to complete the ‘Harmony Day Find-a-Word’ activity sheet.
- Students to cut out letters from magazines or newspapers to form the words, ‘Harmony Day’.
- Students to listen to a guest speaker, perhaps an Indigenous member of the community or someone from overseas. Students to ask questions about the speaker’s culture.
- Students to complete the ‘Harmony Day Y Chart’ activity sheet.

Mathematics

- Students to learn how to count to ten in another language.
- Students to survey their classmates on one of the following questions (or they can create one of their own):
  - How many students speak another language?
  - How many students have travelled overseas?
  - How many students were born overseas?

They can record the information on the ‘Diversity Data’ activity sheet (NEW for 2017).
Science

- Students to discuss ‘The balance of nature’. What is harmony in nature? How do animals live together in harmony?

Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography)

- Students to discuss how they think people travelled to Australia many years ago. How do people travel to Australia now? Draw a picture comparing two modes of transport (one old and one new).
- Students to bring in a family photo and share with the class. Students to talk about who is in their family. Discuss their cultural origins. How do they try to live harmoniously in their family?
- Students to mark on a world map (with the help of the teacher) where they, their parents/caregivers and their grandparents were born. Use a different colour to represent each category.
- Students to discuss what they think a community needs to live in harmony, then draw a basic design for a ‘Harmony’ town.
- Students to choose one classmate and complete the ‘Classmate Comparison’ activity sheet (NEW for 2017) to find out the similarities and differences between them.
- Students to explore their family and people who are special to them using the ‘Special People Tree’ activity sheet. Page two of the activity sheet should be enlarged to A3 size.

The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)

- Students to find images in newspapers and magazines depicting harmony. Make a ‘Harmony Day’ collage for the classroom.
- Students to complete the ‘This is Me’ activity sheet. Completed work can be cut out and added to a class mural.
- As a class, students to make some musical instruments. Investigate ways of playing them in harmony.
- Students to view flags from various countries and paint one of their choice onto a piece of fabric. Display them around the classroom or school.
- Students to listen to music from different cultures and discuss how they feel when they hear it.
Students to paint or draw a picture illustrating harmony.

Students to create orange paper chains with Harmony Day words on each link.

Students to design their own symbols or logos to represent Harmony Day.

Technologies (Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies)

- Students consider how technology helps people to stay in touch and maintain harmonious relationships. How can it have the opposite effect?

Health and Physical Education

- Students to learn about and participate in some sports that are popular in other countries but are rarely played here. Have a ‘multicultural’ sports day.
- Students to learn about dances from other cultures. Select one and perform it at an assembly.
- Students to brainstorm how to be ‘fair’ when playing games and sports.
- Students to view pictures of the different types of food eaten in Australia today (including Indigenous foods) and try to guess which countries these foods originated from.
- Students to bring in an orange-coloured healthy snack to celebrate Harmony Day.
- Students to discuss what the term ‘respect’ means to them then complete the ‘Cape of Respect’ activity sheet.

Languages

- Students to learn how to say ‘Harmony’ and ‘Day’ in another language.
- Students to find out how many students in their class speak another language. Which languages do they speak?
- Students to learn how to say ‘Hello’ in the languages spoken by their classmates then use these to greet each other.