International Interdependence Hexagon Project

2019 Theme: Transforming Conflict
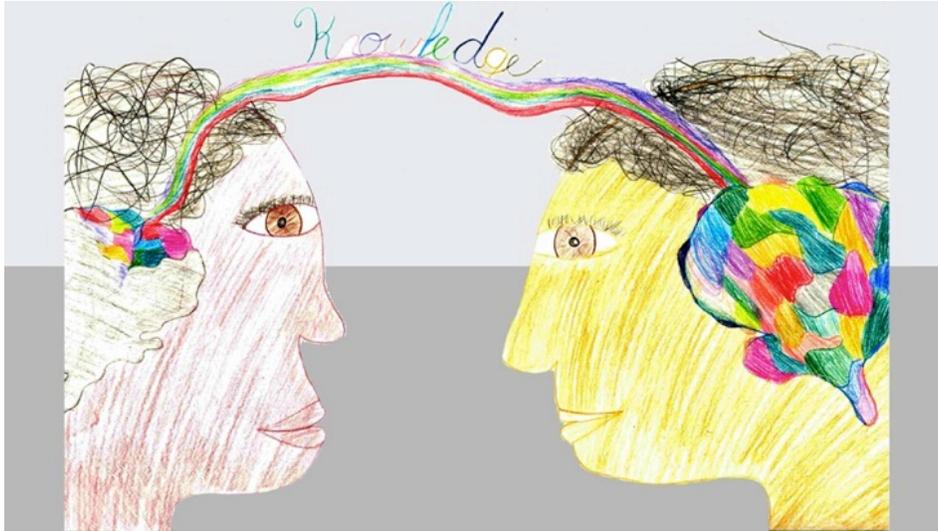
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The Theme

The 2019 theme of "Transforming Conflicts" is a call to promote global citizenship, enabling learners to

- Develop an understanding of and make connections among local, national and global issues
- Develop skills for civic literacy such as critical thinking, problem solving, peacebuilding and personal and social responsibility (UNESCO, 2015).

Who can participate?

All are invited to think about conflicts critically, and how these might be transformed creatively and non-violently using hexagonal art as a medium.

What is Conflict?

What is a conflict?

A conflict exists between individuals, or groups of individuals, communities, cultures or countries (parties) when they pursue incompatible goals while trying to stop the other(s) from pursuing their goals.

Is conflict same as violence?

No. Understanding different types of violence can help understand different types of conflicts. Violence can be *direct* (e.g., inflict injury, act of war). It can be *cultural* (e.g., racism) or it can be structural (e.g. institutionalized poverty or social inequality).

What causes conflicts? Where are conflicts?

External conflicts - can arise due to scarcity of resources, inequitable distribution of power & resources, lack of effective communication & trust within communities, families, people and groups, incorrect or biased perceptions of each other and unresolved past grievances. Internal conflicts – can arise within our own self, e.g., having incorrect perceptions of our self that might be imposed on us or unresolved grievances and so on.

Is conflict negative?

A conflict can be positive and constructive by opening avenues of change if managed creatively and effectively.

What is transforming conflict?

Is conflict resolution the same as transformation?

Conflict resolution is a process to find nonviolent solutions to disagreement among parties that can end the cause of the problem, through actions such as negotiations, which can 'resolve' the disagreement.

What is conflict transformation?

Conflict transformation provides a framework for what needs to be stopped, (e.g., violence or injustice) as well as what needs to be built in its place. The 'transformation' process *goes beyond resolution of issues in a conflict to restoration of relationships between parties in conflict*. It focuses on changes individually, culturally, institutionally to restore relationships between parties.

Creating Hexagons on Transforming Conflicts

4 - step Instructional Method

Step one: Understanding the theme
Use teacher resources to introduce the project, generate a group/ class discussion about the topic and communicate individual ideas. Found under 'Teacher Resources' at www.hexagonproject.org

Step two: Conceptualize

Students work in groups or individually to: identify and analyze conflict(s) of their choice; research and share findings. Write these ideas about the conflict.

Step Three: Critically Visualize

In same or new groups, students imagine what peace means in this conflict; Working 'backwards', discern changes needed within self (intra-personally), with others (inter-personally), culturally and within institutions, that can contribute to peace in this conflict. Share and write these changes needed.

Step Four: Creatively Illustrate

Students work individually or in groups to (1) visually illustrate each idea of the change processes in Step three. Illustrate each change idea in a separate hexagon or a series of changes in one hexagon. (2) Write about what you have illustrated in your hexagon(s). Submit the write-ups from steps two to four - and the hexagons. Ensure you have your names written on the hexagons and the write-ups, on the top left corner. Go to the Hexagon Project website Registration Form to upload images and text.

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