

# Post MLK Read for Peace Visit Activities

5th Grade

Now that MLK Day and Read for Peace have past, we encourage you to keep the conversation going with your students. We feel it is important to recognize the struggles, triumphs, and work that still needs to be done more than one day out of the year. Below you will find activities to do with your students that keep them thinking about how we can make our world a better place. Feel free to adjust the activities to your students needs and abilities

## Service Learning Activities

### 1. Community Service Project

- a. Essential Question: *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*
- b. For this project, students will come up with a project (either group or individual) that will give back to the community. Some examples of this could be (but not limited to!):
  - i. A can foods (or similar) drive
  - ii. Community recycling projects in places where there is no formal recycling program
  - iii. Park or community trash cleanup
  - iv. Volunteering at a senior citizen or group home
- c. Have the students keep a journal about their experiences and how they feel as a result of their service. Take pictures too!
- d. Once the project is completed (or if it's ongoing, just a debrief) present their project to their class or to the school at large.

### 2. Connect with a Classroom

*"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."*

- a. Learning about others and appreciating differences was a key message from Dr. King. Partnering with a classroom from another part of the country or world is a great way for students to learn firsthand about other cultures.
  - i. If you don't know where to start, try [ePals](#). This free online service allows teachers to connect with classrooms from all over the world. Teachers can choose to Skype, launch a pen pal program, or work together on joint classroom projects. Browse current available collaborations or create your own.
  - ii. Share your class's experience with the school!

### 3. Mix Up Lunch

*"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."*

- a. Students report that lunchrooms are one of the most cliquey and segregated places in a school—students tend to sit with others like themselves and rarely venture out of their comfort zone. Teaching Tolerance, a website dedicated to teaching students about diversity, recently held an international event called [Mix It Up at Lunch Day](#). According to the website, "Mix It Up at Lunch Day is an international campaign that encourages students to identify, question, and cross social boundaries."
  - i. So why not host your own Mix It Up at Lunch Day? Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a great opportunity for students of all ages to connect and break down social barriers by purposefully sitting with different students at lunch. Have your students keep a journal of their experience and share with the class. Encourage your entire school to get involved!