

# PEACE PLATES

## AN ARTMAKING ACTIVITY FOCUSED ON MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND PEACE

Inspired by the books *Whoever You Are*, *The Peace Book*,  
and *Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King*

GRADES: PRE K - 2<sup>ND</sup>



Finished Peace Plate

### OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES

- Students will learn about Martin Luther King Jr. and his work for peace and equality.
- Students will hear stories about love and acceptance.
- Students will learn about the peace sign and what it symbolizes.
- Students will tacitly interact with the materials, tangibly mixing colors.
- Students will explore the difference between positive and negative space.

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY/CONCEPT

Students will be fingerpainting peace symbols on paper plates. They will mix the colors using their hands, creating a unique work of art. Students will be introduced to Martin Luther King Jr. and his work before the activity. This will inform students about historical efforts for peace and equality.

### MATERIALS

Large paper plates; 1 inch wide painter's tape; red, blue, green, and purple tempera paint; tablecloths; hand wipes; plastic gallon-sized bags; and hole puncher.

### VOCABULARY

Peace – a state of tranquility or quiet

Equality – the quality or state of being equal, or like for each member of a group, class, or society

Positive space – the space that an object occupies; the main focus

Negative space – the space that surrounds an object in an image; the background

### PROCEDURE

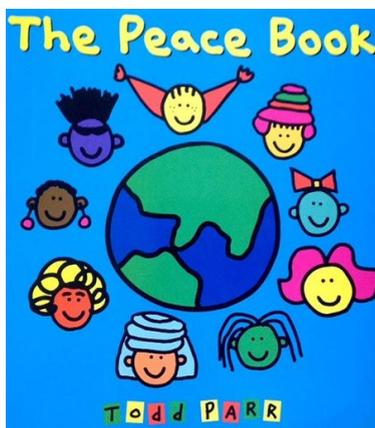
1. Tape off a peace sign shape on a paper plate.
2. Punch a hole in the top of the plate so that it can be hung later.
3. Pour paint onto extra plates and place on tables.
4. Students finger paint their individual plates, in the *positive space*.

- Students remove the tape to reveal the peace sign. The *negative space* (where the tape covered the plate) now reveals the peace sign.
- Allow the plate to dry. Place the plate in a gallon-sized plastic bag if students need to take it.

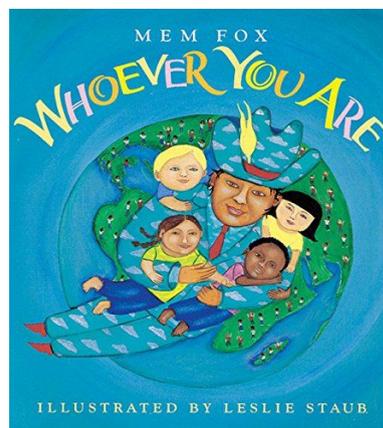


### RELATED RESOURCES/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

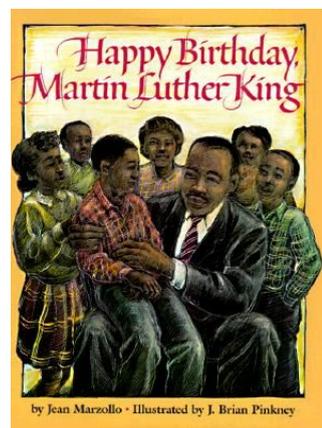
Use these books to guide the lesson and add more meaning to the students' artmaking.



*The Peace Book*  
Todd Parr



*Whoever You Are*  
Mem Fox



*Happy Birthday, Martin Luther King*  
Jean Marzollo

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To increase students' learning, teach them about the origin of the peace sign. It was designed by Gerald Holtom for the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in 1958. Holtom incorporated the flag signals for the letters N and D, for Nuclear Disarmament. More information can be found at:

<https://www.britannica.com/story/where-did-the-peace-sign-come-from>

