

Peace Pebbles

GRATITUDE

To help students practise giving as a way to strengthen relationships and promote peace. Inspired by Mercury's lesson on handling conflict thoughtfully, students will create and gift a beautifully decorated Peace Pebble, reminding themselves and others that kindness, calm, and care can help bring people together.



Learning Intentions

I can create a Peace Pebble to give to someone special as a symbol of kindness:

This encourages students to practise generosity and reflect on positive connections with others.

I can think about how small acts of giving can help solve problems and make others feel good:

This helps students understand how gratitude and kindness can reduce conflict and create peace.

I can use colours and symbols that make me feel calm and happy:

This nurtures self-expression and emotional reflection through creative activity.



Success Criteria

I can decorate a pebble using peaceful and kind colours or symbols:

This supports students in using creativity to represent care and calm.

I can choose someone to give my Peace Pebble to and explain why I picked them:

This promotes thoughtfulness, gratitude, and kind communication.

I can reflect on how giving something kind can make others feel happy:

This helps students recognise the power of small actions in building strong relationships.



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Objective:

To help students practise giving as a way to strengthen relationships and promote peace. Inspired by Mercury's lesson on handling conflict thoughtfully, students will create and gift a beautifully decorated Peace Pebble, reminding themselves and others that kindness, calm, and care can help bring people together.

Players:

Ideal for 4–26 students working individually with time for group sharing.

Materials:

- Small, smooth pebbles/rocks (one per student)(if you can't find pebbles/rocks you can ask students to bring one in from home and turn it into a small homework activity).
- Paint pens, markers, or acrylic paints
- Bowls of water and cloths (for clean-up)
- Optional: stickers, glitter, or natural materials (like leaves or flowers)

Time Required:

15–20 minutes (including drying and sharing time)

Setup:

Place all materials on tables or activity stations. Have a short class discussion about the end of Mercury's chapter in *The Playful Astronauts* book. Remind students that even when we disagree or feel upset, we can choose peaceful actions, like giving kindness instead of anger.

Explain that today they'll create a *Peace Pebble*, which they'll decorate and then gift to someone who brings peace to their life, or someone they want to share peace with.

Gameplay:

Explain the Activity:

Ask students to think about someone they would like to give their pebble to. This could be:

- A friend who has helped them
- A classmate they've had a disagreement with
- A sibling or family member
- A teacher or carer

Once they've chosen, invite them to decorate their pebble with:

- Colours that make them feel calm or happy (e.g. blue, green, yellow)
- Shapes or symbols of peace (e.g. hearts, stars, rainbows, smiley faces)



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Giving the Gift:

When their pebble is finished and dry, students can:

- Present it quietly to the person they've chosen
- Leave it in their cubby, locker, or desk with a note
- Bring it home and give it to a family member

Offer the option to write or dictate a short message (e.g. "Thank you for helping me feel better" or "I made this to share peace with you"). This could be done using a post it note (sticky note) or simply a piece of paper that the pebble can be stuck to using sticky tape (optional).

Encourage Reflection:

Bring students back together and ask:

- "How did it feel to make something kind for someone else?"
- "How do you think the person felt when they received it?"
- "How can giving help solve conflict or make things better?"

Emphasise that peaceful giving is a powerful way to connect and repair relationships, just like the Playful Astronauts learn when facing challenges on Mercury.

Winning the Game:

There is no winner. The gift of giving, the joy of creating, and the feeling of peace are the rewards in this thoughtful and calming activity.

Classroom Variation:

In the classroom, a "Peace Pebble Basket" can be created where students can take or give pebbles throughout the term as a quiet way to express kindness or resolve a disagreement.

Additional Notes:

"Peace Pebbles" is a tactile, creative way to reinforce the life skill of conflict resolution. It encourages calmness, generosity, and reflection, showing students that even small actions can bring harmony. This activity helps bring Week Two to a meaningful close, as students leave with not just knowledge, but a gift they can pass forward.

