

BRIDGING DIVIDES

Bridging Divides Through Forgiveness & Understanding

Level: Middle School

Time: 2 Class Periods

Topic: Bridging Divides

Essential Questions:

1. How can forgiveness and understanding help to bridge divides?
2. How has forgiveness and understanding been used in history?
3. What benefits does forgiveness and understanding have?

Lesson Goals and Objectives:

- Students will list and discuss the reasons for/benefits of forgiveness.
- Students will analyze obstacles to forgiveness.
- Students will read and discuss historical case studies on forgiveness.
- Students will create a statement on their view of forgiveness.

Key Terms:

Forgiveness

Obstacles

Understanding

Materials:

Video, The Man in the Red Bandanna'

Computer access

Large sheets of white paper/markers

Background:

Students should have basic knowledge of the events of 9/11

Instructional Activity/Procedures:

1. Journal or do now: What does forgiveness mean? Whom do we need to forgive? When do we need to forgive?
2. After discussing this with the entire class break students into groups of 3-4. Give each group a large sheet of paper and markers. Ask each group to make a chart of the benefits of forgiveness (for both the person forgiven and the forgiver) and the obstacles to forgive. They should also write down what they believe to be unforgivable.
3. Students should present their forgiving charts' to the class. These can be posted around the room.
4. Watch the video 'The Man in the Red Bandanna'
5. Discuss:
 1. What does the Crowther family's reaction to the death of Welles teach us about love and forgiveness?
 2. Why do you think the Crowther's were able to go beyond hate and revenge?
 3. Do you think Welles would approve of his family's actions? What values did he have that makes you believe this?
 4. What is the value of trying to bring love and forgiveness to a situation of hate? How could that help us as people or as groups to bridge divides?
 5. How does not forgiving hurt us as individuals?

Evidence of Understanding:

1. Oral reports
2. After hearing the reports the class should journal on the following topics:
Would I be able to forgive in these situations?
What benefits did the group that forgave receive?
How did this help their country/community?
3. Ask students to create a personal statement on forgiveness. These can be posted around the classroom or incorporated into a bulletin board of 'Bridging Divides Through Forgiveness'

Extension Activities:

1. Students can do further research on stories of forgiveness (theforgivenessproject.com has excellent examples).
2. Watch the movie 'Hotel Rwanda' on the Rwandan genocide. Students should research reconciliation through Gacaca.
3. Students can create a forgiveness journal.
4. Listen to the song 'We Are the World'. What is the meaning of it?
5. Students can create a poem, song or art showing the meaning of forgiveness

The Nacireman Culture

The Naciremans were a large and diverse culture that had some interesting and unusual customs. Most of the Naciremans were descended from people who came to this beautiful land from other places. The government of Nacirema was headed by one main leader and many, many lesser leaders. Most of the time there were disagreements between the leaders and so it took a long time to get many things done. Leaders were often ridiculed by others including people on TV.

The Naciremans live in various types of homes that were often used to display their wealth. Some Naciremans were able to live with their families in a separate home, while others lived in large homes with many divisions for different families. Medicines were kept in boxes above an area referred to as the throne. The children of the Naciremans sometimes behave in unusual ways. They stay in rooms with various machines and tend to worship other Naciremans usually not the same ones as their parents. These false idols' are spoken about and large amounts of money are spent getting information about them.

Older Naciremans are fond of the sacred otua. They spend a great deal of time looking at these creatures. Otuas are seen in Nacirema in various sizes and shapes. Many people have more than one otua. For younger Naciremans a sign of growing up is getting their own otua; some sinister people steal these.

The Naciremans have many holidays. One of them is celebrated towards the end of fall. Family and friends will travel - sometimes long distances- to eat a meal with others. This meal is characterized by large quantities of food. Afterwards many Naciremans will watch combatants knock each other over and often they yell when this happens. The combatants in Nacirema are given large economic rewards for their efforts. They are also treated like royalty.

People in Nacirema are able to purchase products with a promise to pay later.

When people come from other lands to Nacirema they often dress their children like other Nacireman children and adopt many of the holidays and customs of Nacirema.