

War and Peace: A Discussion

Discussion prompts

- What is **peace**?
 - A time when people are not in conflict. The absence of military action towards another group of people.
 - There might be some smaller conflicts, but nations (governments) are not at war.
- What is **war**?
 - A time when the leadership of a nation chooses to fight another nation.
 - A majority of people are organized to fight in the name of the group, or nation.
- Many people think **peace is good**. What might be positive about peace?
 - People aren't injured or die.
 - People can work instead of fight. This helps families and communities live their lives, gather and create the goods and resources they need (economies can grow and flourish).
 - Environments (plants, animals, waterways) aren't damaged and ecosystems are kept intact.
 - Peace requires **cooperation** and **compromise**, or give-and-take.
 - **Cooperation** and **compromise** require good listening and taking the time for one group of people to understand another group of people.
 - (and of course, the obverse is true, war is "bad" because: people die in war, it disrupts local economies, damages the environment, allows people to become entrenched in their own ideas and opinions, etc.)
- If peace is good, then **why do people choose war**?
 - People choose war when they can't find a solution of peace.
 - People choose war when they believe another nation threatens their own nation or an **allied** nation.
 - It may help learners to be reminded that Canada chose to go to war in World War II, and that in general Canada still goes to war to fight situations the government thinks are wrong.
 - In the 1700s, Mi'kmaq worked peacefully (for the most part) with Acadian villages for a century before war broke out between the British and the Mi'kmaq. Acadian and Mi'kmaq were able to compromise and cooperate, which allowed each to choose peace. They considered themselves **allies** and never needed treaties to get along with one another.

