

CANADIAN LANDMINE FOUNDATION – SCHOOL LESSON PLANS

Lesson Six The Ottawa Treaty

Purpose - to learn about the role Canada played in creating an international law to ban landmines; to explore the concepts of international law and the procedures for coming to agreement on a treaty

1. In either small groups or with the entire class, discuss

*What are some of the **rules for students** that exist in this school?

- no running in the halls
- no snowballs
- no walkmans or cell phones
- attendance and late procedures
- no swearing
- no bullying
- no racist comments

*What are the **reasons for these rules**?

- safety
- creating an atmosphere for learning
- encouraging attendance and punctuality
- fostering positive relationships among students

***Who makes these rules**?

- Principal
- school board
- parent council
- student government

2. If a country and a group of organizations (Red Cross, veteran peacekeepers groups, etc) wanted to make some rules, how might they do that? What challenges would they face?

3. If a country or group wanted to eliminate the landmine problem, what rules might they make? This question can be discussed and answers listed in small groups, then shared with the large group.

4. The Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines

- a. video
- b. Power Point Notes
- c. What makes this treaty unique ?
 - it became international law in the fastest time ever, about 15 months;
 - it was created by the efforts of NGO's, mine survivors, and representatives of governments;

- it was established and brought to ratification outside of normal and traditional channels- negotiating and organizing was done at a regional level;
- Canada took leadership and used “soft power” to create change;
- it put the needs of people ahead of the interests of big powers;
- it brought together developing nations and power nations;
- it is enforceable and compliance is being monitored;
- it is working.

Teacher’s notes

What- a treaty that provides for “the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines”

Who- signed by 143 countries(as of July 2002) under the leadership of the Canadian government and the Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy

Where- Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

When- December 2-4, 1997 representatives of 150 countries and hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) met and 139 nations formally signed the landmine ban convention. 40 nations’ signing required for international law. March 1, 1999 the Convention became binding under international law.

How- NGO’s (such as the International Red Cross, Vietnam Veterans), landmine survivors. representatives of governments from around the world came together to tackle the landmine issue. Canada provided a forum, a meeting place and leadership

Resources

www.icbl.org/treaty

www.mines.gc.ca/VI_F-en.pdf pages 16 and 17