

Teacher's Guide

Hiroshima peace project

**Film Pictures from a Hiroshima schoolyard, Book Running with Cosmos Flowers;
The Children of Hiroshima: A Bridge of Peace Between Japan and America**

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY,

The Children of Hiroshima who lived in zero zone

Right after the war and the dropping of the atomic bombs, some children in Hiroshima received an unexpected Christmas present of art supplies from Americans whose names they never learned. In gratitude, the children drew pictures and sent them back to America. The children enjoyed putting their noses close to the white paper, smelling its nice smell and drawing with the crayons that came in 24 colors--something they had never seen. These children, and the pictures they drew, were the forty-eight seeds.

The joy and humor these children found in the barren landscape of the post war days not only warms our hearts but reminds us afresh that these are the most important things to human beings. The small happiness that the children were able to realize at that time ended up being a special treasure with which dreams were built and ideals pursued. Although at that time the conveniences of computers and cell phones didn't exist, for these children, the lack of possessions wasn't a concern because their imaginations were rich. Despite the difficult times these children had experienced, their pictures are filled with joy and a desire to live.

Sixty-three years after she drew it, the main character, an older woman named Hanako, sees her drawing of herself, running with a bouquet of cosmos flowers. She had found cosmos flowers blooming in a corner off a street in Hiroshima; just months after the bomb fell. Those cosmos flowers represented an entree to peace and hope and for Hanako and many other children; the flowers gave them courage to live. This story is based on Hanako, now in her golden years, and her memories of that time.

The postwar lifestyle in the United State was unknown to the Japanese, and for the average American, Japan was still viewed as an enemy nation. The children's lives were not easy. They had lost their homes, their parents—one wonders what hopes a child could have for life after losing everything. Yet, the consideration and assistance Americans gave to Japanese children brought significant moments of happiness to the “forty-eight seeds”—these children of the postwar.

Running with Cosmos Flowers: the Children of Hiroshima is based upon Shizumi's United States-Japan 2006 collaborative film project called, "Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard," along with the experiences of people in Hiroshima during the postwar, the stories of family and friends, and interviews with over one hundred children raised in the aftermath of the atomic bomb and an American witness who helped Hiroshima children.

INTRODUCTION

In present day Japan, educators teach the message of peace through Hiroshima. This peace education is called, "education for survival." Children learn of the devastation inflicted upon the city and residents of Hiroshima with the dropping of the atomic bomb. Enlightened of its subsequent pain and suffering, students understand the importance of peaceful resolutions for themselves and for the future of humanity.

This presentation is designed to inspire educators to teach reconciliation and peace in their classrooms and is adaptable for elementary to high school and collage audiences. Through this study of the children of Hiroshima in the aftermath of the atomic bomb, students will also deepen their understanding of the values of kindness, forgiveness and positive thinking.

ESSENTIAL/ORGANIZING QUESTIONS

- What is peace?
- What values bring meaning to a person's life?
- What is the human discrimination in this society?
- How we all get understand of other culture?

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Consider the possible significance of the message of Hanako's story in their lives
- Consider the meaning of peace
- Discuss the symbols of peace

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Length

45 to 90 minutes

Outline

- Presentation of Trailer of the film. DVD images of 48 drawings with explanations about the children who drew them and why these were drawn following the destruction of Hiroshima in 1945
- Story behind Shizumi's Hiroshima project

- Story behind the book, Running with Cosmos Flowers; the Children of Hiroshima
- Excerpt from the documentary film, “Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard”. This will be longer version depend on the time we will have.
- Workshops with students: everything about cranes in Japan as a symbol of hope and peace.
- Why paper cranes became the symbol of peace
- Question and answer with students
- Making origami paper cranes
- Short drama or storytelling “The Moon and Cranes”. This will be dance theater performance.
- Dance and mime story, “Hide and Seek’; Children of Hiroshima ”; this work can be shown in DVD. Received Emmy Ace award from National Cable TV .

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Review brief history between Japan and the United States
- Review timeline of just before and after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima
- Review brief history of Hiroshima

BRIEF HISTORY BETWEEN JAPAN AND UNITED STATES

1854	Commodore Perry of the United States sails to Japan and with the signing of the Kanagawa Treaty, established trade between the two nations
1860	The Japanese Embassy is established in Washington, D.C. As a symbolic gift of peace and mutual good will, Japan presents the U.S. with 1,000 cherry trees, several of which are planted in the city near the Potomac River.
1940	The world is already at war: Germany, France, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Luxembourg. Japan had colonies in the Pacific; Japan needed natural resources so continued its expansion into the Pacific.

The United States controlled the Philippines and the islands across the route to the Dutch, French and English colonies. The U.S. was against Japanese expansion into this part of the world.

Japan hoped to solve this problem. The Japanese ambassador went to Washington D.C. trying to come to an agreement that would keep both countries out of war. Unfortunately, that agreement did not work for both countries.

- 1941 On December 8th, Japanese forces attacked the United States at their military base located in Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian Islands. This action took more than 2,400 American lives and plunged the United States into the Second World War of the century.
- 1942-1945 Japanese Americans are taken by the United States government from their homes and communities and held in internment camps as prisoners of war.
- 1945 On August 6th, the United States bomber, Enola Gay, dropped a single atomic bomb on Japan that levelled the city of Hiroshima and took the lives of nearly 100,000 men, women and children. Three days later, a second bomb was dropped on the city of Nagasaki taking another 74,000 lives.
- On August 15th, Japan surrendered to the U.S. ending World War II. No one cheered about the dropping of the atomic bombs except people who were proud of the science technology of the new weapon. However, the radiation curse was yet unknown: its effects upon people and the earth.
- 1945-1950 Hiroshima children grew up living in the “Zero Zone.”
- 1952-1980 Japan rebuilt, embraced democracy, and rapidly became one of the world’s major economic powers. American businesses struggled to compete with Japanese technology and the quality of Japan’s products.

BRIEF HISTORY OF HIROSHIMA

In 1589 a powerful territorial warlord of pre-modern Japan, Mori Terumoto, founded the city of Hiroshima on the river delta coastline of the Seto Inland Sea. Terumoto was the daimyo, a feudal ruler, of the area.

From the 10th century to the early 19th century, the daimyo were powerful feudal rulers. When Daimyo Moori was in power, he wanted to build the city of Hiroshima like the south of Kyoto City and he built the most beautiful wooden made and hand crafted castle. So, he built Miyajima Shrine Temple a little outside of the city where it is still hailed as one of the most beautiful places in Japan.

During World War II, the Second Army and Chugoku Regional Army were headquartered in Hiroshima.

The city also had a large stockpiles of military supplies and was a key center for shipping.

In 1941 the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Americans were shocked, and the act precipitated war against Japan.

On Monday, August 6, 1945 at 8:15 a.m., the nuclear bomb codenamed, “Little Boy,” was dropped on Hiroshima by the American B-29 bomber, the “Enola Gay.” The atomic bomb killed an estimated 80,000 people. By the end of the year, more than 140,000 had died from their injuries or radiation. Approximately 76% of Hiroshima’s buildings were destroyed.

Recovery and Growth of Hiroshima after the War

Under the recovery plan of General Douglas MacArthur, large roads were built in the center of the city. Together with the growth of the baseball team known as the Hiroshima Cubs, the success of facilities such as the central public hall that were prepared to meet the increased demand of baseball’s popularity

In February of 1946, the first elementary school at Honkawa School was re-opened. Students were taught a new concept of democracy for the people and children of Japan.

In the spring of 1946, temporary barrack houses were built and two months later, tetsudou gusa weeds were growing.

In 1946, the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission/ABCC was established by President Truman to conduct investigations of the effects of radiation on the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

In the spring of 1947, cosmos flowers were growing as were mugwort/ yomogi.

On September 17th, 1945 one of the largest typhoons, Typhoon Ida, struck the city of Hiroshima.

By 1948, permanent bigger houses were built as well as a main highway.

In 1949, Hiroshima University was established under the National School Establishment Law. In the same year as part of the reconstruction process, a professional baseball team named the Hiroshima Carp, was established in Hiroshima.

In 1952, the Japanese government became independent from American occupation.

By 1955 many commercial office buildings had been bilt and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was opened. Children’s center and library were established with the help of Dr. Howard Bell.

In 1963 the Hiroshima Symphony Orchestra was developed.

In 1977, the Hiroshima Flower Festival was organized and ran from May 3-5. More than a million people participate in the festival each year.

Dissection of a survivor from the atomic bombs was stopped in 1978.

The Hiroshima Mayor Akiba collaborated with the Mayor of Nagasaki in 1982 to establish a mission for “Mayors for Peace” with the mission of bringing the worlds’ mayors to come together and working to eliminate nuclear weapons from by 2020.

The Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Arts opened in 1989.

?????From 1946 to present, doctors and scientists from Japan and the United States collaborate on the effects of the atomic bomb.

The population of Hiroshima prior to WWII was 419,182. Following the war, that number was down to 137,197. As of 2006, Hiroshima’s population had grown to 1,154,391.

TIMELINE BEFORE AND AFTER DROPPING OF THE ATOMIC BOMB ON HIROSHIMA August 6th, 1945

At 7:56 to ~8:00 a.m.

People in Hiroshima see a B-29 plane flying over the city.

At 8:12 a.m.

The B-29 bomber, an American military plane, drops an atomic bomb on the city. The bomb is called “Little Boy.”

At 8:13 a.m.

Strong flashes of light engulf the city and shake the earth.

At 8:15 a.m.

A huge blast creates high heat and a mushroom shaped cloud appears in the sky.

At 8:15 a.m. 15 seconds

An endless fireball...people screaming echoing from everywhere

At 8:16 a.m.

Honkawa schoolyard is at the hypo center. The 400 students at the school’s morning assembly in the schoolyard instantly burn and die.

At 8:18 a.m.

People see a cloud like a giant thunderhead emerge in the shape of a mushroom over the sky above the hypo zone.

At 8:19 a.m.

The white dark pink color and silver shape of the mushroom cloud becomes lower and reaches the ground. The cloud becomes a dark blue color.

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At 8:30 a.m.

Hiroshima's city and sky become darker and darker.

At 8:40 a.m.

Thousands of people try to escape from the fire and flames.

At 9:00 a.m.

Thousands of injured people attempt to get into the river because of the heat of their burning bodies.

At 10:00 a.m.

Thousands of dead bodies float on the river and slowly float away to the ocean.

At 10:10 to 11:00 a.m.

Black rain falls on the city of Hiroshima, particulate matter from the mushroom cloud...oily and slimy mud.

At 10:30 a.m.

Thousands of people wander walking lifeless with skin hanging. Everywhere in the city are injured people and burning bodies.

At 6:00 p.m.

Sky of Hiroshima burns red.

At 8:00 p.m.

Injured people in shock and still wondering what happened to them. No one knew at the time that an atomic bomb had been dropped.

At 10:00 p.m.

Because of the heat from the bomb, fire expands, burning non-stop and consuming more of the city.

By the end of August 6th, many people were missing. Scorched bodies yet alive were described as ghostly. Dead bodies were seen everywhere and lined upon tin sheets.

On August 15th, Japan surrendered to the United States.