

The APOLOGY SONG Lesson Plan  
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**Title:** The Apology Song  
**Length of Lesson:** two class periods  
**Grade Level:** Elementary (K-5)  
**Plans may be modified according to specific grade**

### The Five Languages of Apology

1. Expressing Regret – *"I apologize"*
2. Accepting Responsibility – *"I was wrong"*
3. Making Restitution – *"What can I do to make it right"*
4. Genuinely Repenting – *"I'll try not to do that again"*
5. Requesting Forgiveness – *"Will you please forgive me"*

***"Sorry is a word surprisingly unheard ..."***

***We can make it happen.. Fill the world with peace and love.. Start a chain reaction.. Beginning with a simple word..***

***Objective:***

"Apology" delivers a message of peace. The song is written and performed by Michael Johnathon. The Apology song is a very sincere and direct musical performance that speaks to creating peace in the world and starting a chain reaction through our own individual actions. How may we let peace begin with ourselves? How we may be start in our day to day lives? For students, encourage them to think about how they may begin to spread peace at school and among their friends.

Once students have listened to the song, there will then be a reflection time in which they write down their feelings. The teacher may include some fundamental questions such as, "What does the word peace mean to you?" "What are some ways that you may create and work for peace in your lives, school and community?" "How do you think music brings people together?" There are so many forms of beautiful music around the world. Students are encouraged to appreciate and celebrate diversity not only in musical form, but in our lives and the ways we treat one another and all beings.

Before introducing the activities to the students, begin a circle time in which the students you have a discussion about what the word “apology” means. There is so much value in just sitting with the class and having them speak to the circle. Sitting in a circle allows them to feel a sense of togetherness and allows for a more comfortable and open discussion. Continuing, have the activity ready to present and explain to the students at the end of the circle. The explanation of the activity will be in the Description section of the plans.

### ***Description of Lesson/Activities & Procedures:***

#### **Activity 1:**

Activity 1 will have students listen to “The Apology” while sitting in a circle. After students listen to the song, they will be able to share what they feel about the song and the message of it. Ask students to express their feelings on what it means to sincerely apologize. How will being able to apologize help increase peace. How will this spread a message of kindness and teach others through their actions of peace. Also, encourage students to talk about the ways in which they avoid hurting others feelings and including everyone. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss the importance of kindness and not bullying others. Also, ask students to explore the idea of how music brings people together. Ask students to think about The Apology song for example.

#### **Activity 2:**

Activity 2 in this lesson will have students design their own arts and crafts project that encourages peace and kindness in their own classroom. This project will be called a peace flower project. Students will create their own design of a peace flower. Students will be encouraged to use the peace flower as a way to pass it along to others and discuss it. This will allow students to share their message of peace and kindness, interact with others (ideally all other students) in their class, and also to use their creativity when creating their flower. Students may use construction paper, tissue paper, and any other assortment of art materials that would contribute well to their design. Students are strongly encouraged to design their own flower and use their creativity. Students may even decide to do a paper mache flower if these materials are available. Some may also create a mosaic flower. This will allow teachers the opportunity to introduce various art forms as well.

The following link has an idea for a craft that was used as an activity for Martin Luther King Jr. Day:

<http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/kidscraftsactivitiesblog/2011/01/how-to-make-a-peace-handprints-flower-craft-idea-for-martin-luther-king-day/>

This is a possible idea for this project. Students use their own handprints to create a flower.

Students are very much encouraged to design their peace flower as they truly feel and want to, as this will not only encourage creativity, but make the artistic much more personal and relevant to them.

***Connection to National Arts Standards (this includes Music):***

- **Creating:** The definition of creating is conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work. Students will generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work. Students will organize and develop artistic ideas and work. Students will refine and complete artistic work. A student engaged in creative practices: **Imagines** a mental image or concept; **Investigates** and studies through exploration or examination. **Constructs** a product by combining or arranging a series of elements. **Reflects** and thinks deeply about his or her work. Creative practices evoke deep, meaningful engagement in the arts.
- Students will learn to be open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives; incorporate group input and feedback into the work.
- **Connecting:** The definition of connecting is relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external context. Students will synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art. Students will relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural and historical context to deepen understanding.
- **Communication** lies at the heart of the arts. In studying the arts, students develop a vast repertoire of skills in intrapersonal and interpersonal processing, listening, observing, speaking, questioning, analyzing, and evaluating meaning. Often, in the arts, this meaning concerns ideas that may be difficult to express outside of the medium chosen by the artist, but is always of great significance to the artist and the informed observer. Use of these processes is developmental and transfers to all areas of life: home, school, community, work, and beyond. It is through communication that collaboration and cooperation occur.
- In learning to communicate through the arts in a standards-based curriculum, students learn to: look and listen effectively to decipher meaning, including knowledge, values, attitudes and intentions.

### ***Vocabulary Within Lesson:***

The goal of this entire lesson is really for students to HEAR a message of peace and apply to their lives. I don't want to have students focus on particular vocabulary words for this lesson; rather, the message of peace, kindness, including everyone and loving all beings, and also what it means to sincerely apologize when we need to do so. Students are encouraged to think about the meaning of the word compassionate and what it means to live a compassionate life.

### ***Rubric and Guidelines:***

***The following are guidelines in which you may assess student's understanding and application of this Songr:***

Demonstrates an understanding of artistic and musical expression as a message of peace, kindness, and inclusion of everyone. There are not further guidelines for this lesson. Peace is the message and creating it by finding ways to do so in our daily lives.