World Hello Day

Actual Holiday: November 21

First Celebrated: 1973

Introduction

Now celebrated by 180 countries, World Hello Day was created after the Yom Kippur War in October of 1973. During this engagement, thousands of soldiers and innocent civilians perished. As a result, two brothers—Brian and Michael McCormack—came up with the idea of having a day that celebrated peace. They and all people who honor World Hello Day believe that conflicts should be resolved through communication rather than force and violence. Clear and honest vocalizations breed harmony and goodwill. Participating in this day is simple: just say hello to 10 different people. Celebrate this day in your classroom by having students learn to how say hello in different languages.

Materials *(for the teacher)*

- *Hello in Other Languages* activity sheet (page 71)
- scissors

The Activity

- Before class, cut out the sections in the *Hello in Other Languages* activity sheet. Have a copy of the page available for reference during the activity.
- Ask students if they know any language besides English. Have student volunteers share words they know. Discuss why learning other languages is important. What can we learn about one another in knowing different languages?
- Pair up students and hand each pair an example from the *Hello in Other Languages* activity sheet. Tell them that they will be celebrating World Hello Day by saying *hello* in another language to 10 other classmates.
- First, students will meet with a partner to practice the word they're given. After all students feel comfortable saying their words correctly (using the pronunciation key), they will walk around the room to other pairs and say their words.
- Once all the pairs have said *hello* to 10 other classmates, they will sit down. When everyone has sat down again, say the name of a language and have the pair who has learned hello in that language come up to the front of the class. Have the pair say the word they learned out loud to the class. The class will repeat the word in order to pronounce it correctly. If the pair or class says the word incorrectly, guide them to the correct pronunciation and have the class repeat it.
- Talk to students about what they learned from this activity. Do they feel like they are ready to say hello to more people around the world now?
- As a bonus activity, have students go home and research how to say *goodbye* in the language that was given to them. The online tool Google Translate can help them with this. On the following day, invite them to share their new word with the class.

©Teacher Created Resources

Hello in Other Languages

French: *bonjour* [BOHN-jur]

Spanish: *hola* [OH-la]

Italian: *ciao* [chow]

Chinese: *ni hao* [NEE-how]

Japanese: *konnichiwa* [ko-NEE-CHEE-wa]

German: *hallo* [HEH-lo]

Latin: *salve* [SAL-vay]

Korean: *yeoboseyo* [yo-BOO-say-YOW]

Arabic: *marhabaan* [MAR-ha-been]

Swedish: *hej* [hey]

Vietnamese: *xin chào* [SIN-chow]

Polish: *witaj* [VEE-tie]

Hindi: *namaskar* [NUM-skar]

Portuguese: *olá* [OH-la]

Indonesian: *halo* [HA-lo]

Greek: *geiá sou* [geh-YA-soo]

Hawaiian: *aloha* [uh-LO-ha]