

Lesson 1 Original State of All Creation

Peace Expedition

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HWPL
Heavenly Culture, World Peace,
Restoration of Light

Peace Expedition



You Namsaeng

(You know what I'm saying)

A cheerful guide of the peace expedition.

He practices meditation continuously to clear his mind, body and soul while wearing a gat.
(*gat: A Korean traditional hat made of bamboo and horsehair)

He goes on the adventure to find out "what is peace?" to reform this age full of jealousy, hatred and envy.

With a gat(God) on his head, a magic fan in his hand, whenever he waves his fan, the winds of peace gather birds.



Gung Gumi

Gumi is very curious and loves nature.

Before he met Namsaeng, Gumi only satisfied his curiosity through books.

One day, after meeting Namsaeng, he joined Namsaeng on his journey to answer the question of "why do we need peace if I enjoy life now as is?"

This difficult adventure is still exciting if it is with Namsaeng.



Olive

Olive who has a Korean mom and an American dad.

She has curly hair, and is clever, mature and always curious.

She is Gumi's classmate and always helps Gumi out when he has a hard time in the peace expedition.





1

Original State of All Creation

Lesson Objectives

1. Understand that all creation maintains diversity and works together to establish harmony.
 2. Seek answers for world peace from the original state of all creation.
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Diversity: Why is diversity needed among nature?


Nature adapts to changes in the environment and maintains diversity to sustain life.

Harmony: How are various forms of life in nature living?


Diverse forms of life coexist in harmony.

Cooperation and coexistence: How do diverse forms of life live together in harmony?

To establish harmony, different beings work together and coexist. Cooperation and coexistence are the starting points for peace among humankind.



Opening Story



One day, a king was astonished by the great wine he drank
and ordered to summon the person who made the wine.

The king said,

“I will reward you for making such great wine.”

The owner of a wine brewery said,

“Actually no. I just made wine from the grape the farmer farmed
with sweat, so it is only right he is rewarded.”

Upon hearing this, the king called the farmer and said,

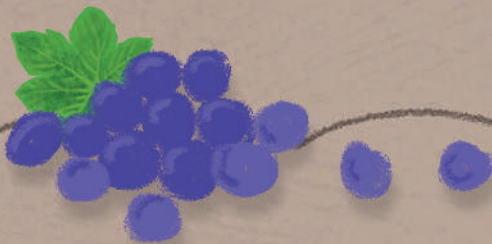
“The wine made from your grapes tasted amazing,
so I will reward you.”

Then the farmer said,

“My Lord! The reason why I was able to harvest such wonderful
grapes is that the weather was great this year.
Hence, you should reward heaven.”



For a great bottle of wine to be made, various environmental factors and efforts of people are needed in a harmonious manner. The owner of the brewery and the farmer knew that the amazing wine could not have been made from only one person's effort. Earth that we live in is like the great wine, so a world of peace cannot be made with a single person or a single nation's endeavor. Only when diverse people and nations form harmony and work together, can we build a beautiful and peaceful world.



1. Diversity

Be it smooth or rough stone, they both have their use.

Ahn Chang-ho (Korean independence activist, 1878-1938)

What is in Nature?

In the world that we live in, there are sky, earth, and water. In the sky, there are the sun, moon, and stars with the clouds and wind in the atmosphere. The sky provides rain or snow to water the earth. Geography is established through the harmony of mountains, islands, fields, deserts, rivers, and lakes. In the oceans, 97% of Earth's water gathers to create waves, currents, and high and low tides. Ocean floors have various geological types such as continental shelves and trenches. What makes Earth more beautiful are the forms of life in it. Earth is filled with various organisms. There are not only animals such as birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals but tens of thousands of plants and microorganisms living together in harmony as well. Among all of these, there is mankind.

The first lines of old texts from eastern Asia often mention heaven, earth, and all creation. This implies that teaching mankind also begins with understanding all creation. The following quotes are the beginnings of two primers used to teach Chinese characters to children.

The sky was dark and the earth yellow. Space vast and limitless.

Beginning of Thousand Character Classic (千字文)

There is sky above, earth below, and in between, people and creation.

The sun, moon, and stars are bound in the sky.

Earth is laden with rivers, oceans, and mountains.

Beginning of Gyemongpyeon (啟蒙篇; Children Primer for Neo-Confucianism)



Thousand Character Classic



Gyemongpyeon

1. How Diverse are Forms of Life and People on Earth?

Starting from 2007, over ten science research institutes, including the Natural History Museum in London, Harvard University, Marine Biological Laboratory in the U.S., and Biodiversity Heritage Library, have collaborated to make the Encyclopedia of Life with the purpose of recording all living species on Earth. The encyclopedia, also dubbed the modern version of Noah's ark, has 1.96 million species registered as of 2019. The encyclopedia expects there are over 90 million species of animals (with insects taking up the greatest portion), and over 400,000 species of plants. When fungi and bacteria are included, it is difficult to even estimate the number of species on Earth.

In addition, there are 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) and 206 participating nations in the International Olympic Committee (IOC). On Earth, there are people of diverse ethnicities and nationalities living together, and we can often see cases where different tribes live within a country. As of 2019, the world's population reached around 7.7 billion, with the number of languages registered amounting to 7,111 according to Ethnologue. Out of them, there is a total of 20 languages, which over 50 million people consider as mother tongue. The total number of religions is not definitive, but there are 22 religions with believers exceeding 500 thousand. As we can see, the world is a place where diverse languages, nations, ethnicities, nationalities, and religions coexist.



2. Why is Biodiversity Needed?

Biodiversity generally refers to the diversity of genes, species, and ecosystems. The reason genetic diversity is needed is to ensure adaptation according to environmental changes and survival. When a disease spreads, the species with lower levels of genetic diversity have the highest chances of becoming extinct. On the other hand, when the level of genetic diversity is high, tolerance to environmental changes or diseases increase.

The diversity of species refers to the number of different species and their distribution ratio. When the level of diversity is high, food chains become complex and the ecosystem is more likely to be stabilized and maintain balance. For example, if we assume snakes only eat frogs, then the extinction of frogs would mean that snakes would disappear as well. However, if snakes feed on frogs, field mice, and rabbits, even if frogs become extinct, snakes can feed on something else. Hence, when food chains become complicated, it is harder to disrupt the ecosystem.

The diversity of ecosystems mean diversity in an ecosystem's environment such as forests, grasslands, swamps, etc. For example, mud flats are buffer zones that connect the land ecosystem to the marine ecosystem, and the phytoplankton that live in these mudflats, through photosynthesis, exude more oxygen than the forests of the same area. In addition, the flats purify ocean pollutants and are the home for different kinds of marine lives including clams, crabs, and lugworms. The ecosystem diversity enables better environments for many forms of life to live in.

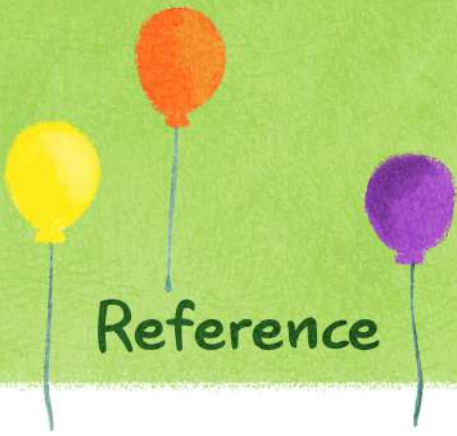
3. A Lesson to Learn from Nature's Diversity : Acknowledging Diversity

All organisms on earth are so diverse that it is not an exaggeration to say that no two organisms are the same. Human beings carry unique traits and identities that are different from one other, and they call one other as separate “individuals.” However, people do not live alone, but in a community. As such, problems arise when people do not respect differences in diversity. This does not stop at conflicts among individuals but spreads into society as well.

For people, who have various objectives and interests, to resolve conflicts and live together in harmony, the first step is to acknowledge diversity and to accept it. Only when such a foundation is laid, can we establish a cohesive community and bring forth harmony among mankind.



A diverse race



Reference

When kudzu vines grow, they grow from left to right, while wisteria vines grow from the opposite direction, climbing from right to left. When they grow together, they are intertwined so much that it is difficult to untangle them and this results in one of the vines dying.

This is the same for our society. When we stubbornly adhere to our own perspectives, peace cannot be achieved.

Only when we acknowledge our differences and find ways to coexist, can we maintain peace.



Discussion



1. There are many animals and plants we see on our way to school or home that we do not know the names of. Let's look up their names and share with others together with pictures.

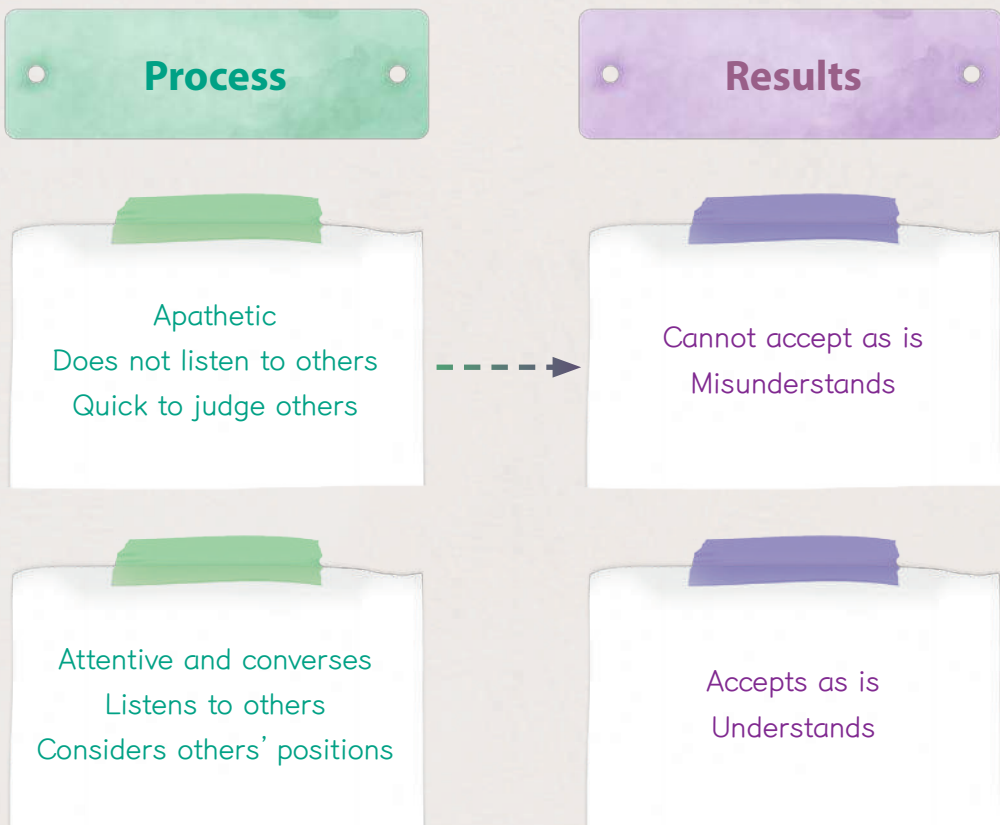
2. Let's talk about different experiences when we conversed with people of various languages, nationalities, religions, cultures, etc. Let's also share what we felt in those moments as we had conversations with those people.

3. Let's write down the list of our friends, and introduce to the class "commonalities" and "differences" between us and our friends.



Application

The etymology of the word “respect” derives from *respicere*, meaning to look to. Hence, when we want to respect someone, we first need to see and understand them as they are. To do so, we should make the effort to pay attention to the person and try to understand them. Based on the contents below, let’s have conversations to better understand each other.



2. Harmony

It is not our differences that divide us.
It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

Audre Lorde (American poet, 1934-1992)

Harmony Based on Diversity

Diversity is a characteristic of nature. To be “Harmonious” means that various entities are able to coexist without conflicts. One can think of it like different watercolor paints making a beautiful artwork on canvas. As we look at how different forms of life in nature live together in harmony, let’s also think about what the peace we yearn for should look like.



Cosmos with various colors



Maple forest

1. Nature in a Harmonious State

1) Spectrum of Light

When the light goes through a prism, there is refraction, where the rays are divided into different colors and wavelengths. As we can see above, light is dispersed and arranged by wavelengths. We call this a spectrum. The reason why we are able to see various shades of color is that wavelengths in the light overlap and create harmony among themselves.



Rainbow

2) Ecosystems in Balance and Harmony Based on Diversity

Approximately 71% of Earth is the ocean, and 29% of it is land. Waters and lands are composed of ecosystems, with countless species inhabiting them. Even within a breed, there is genetic diversity, which is prone to change. As we can see below, ecosystems consist of balance and harmony against the backdrop of diversity.



The beauty of the ocean, where various seaweeds and fish create images of wonder.



The beauty of the forest, made of different kinds of trees and plants.



The beauty of a garden, made with different kinds of flowers.

2. Harmony Found in Human Society

1) Various Instruments and Sound from the Orchestra

An orchestra moves the heart of people through its beautiful sound, which can be calm, exciting, grandiose, and amazing by playing different types of instruments at the same time. When a particular instrument's sound needs to be emphasized, the rest provide support, creating harmony. The conductor of the orchestra and the members become one in heart to create magnificent sound, exactly as different organisms within nature work together to achieve harmony. Such beautiful sounds are not made easily; when there is mutual respect between the conductor and musicians, and among those who play different instruments, harmonious music can be made.



Various instruments used
in the orchestra



Orchestra playing
different instruments in harmony

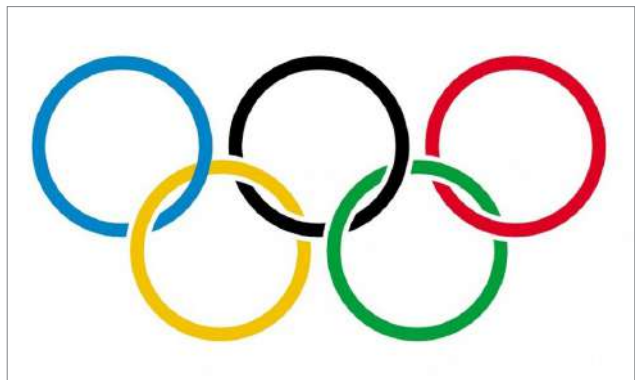
2) Diverse Nations and Categories of Sports in the Olympics

The Olympics Games, held once in summer and once in winter every two years, are sports festivals of the world that transcend ethnicities, nations, and religion. They first began in ancient Greece as Olympia. At the end of the 19th century, Coubertin was inspired by an ancient Olympian festival and led the revival of the modern Olympic Games. In order to do so, he founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894 and two years later in 1896, the first Olympic was held in Athens, Greece. Athletes from various nations come to join the event and compete in different sports categories.

However, the Olympic Games are not events with the mere purpose of having competitions among nations. Nations across the globe gather to have competition in good faith, accept results, and cooperate based on mutual respect. The Olympic Games are truly a festival of people to build a wonderful world of peace.



Various sports
in the Olympic Games

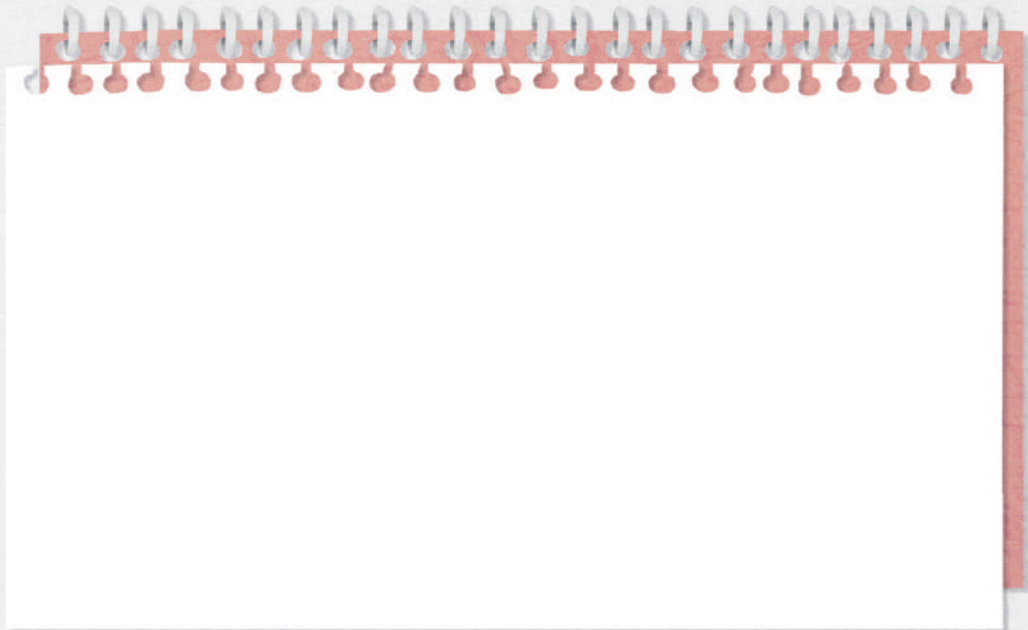


Olympic flag



Let's observe ecosystems nearby (grassland, forests, swamps, etc.) and diverse forms of life. Let's express what we have observed in writing, pictures, and drawing, and explain them to classmates.

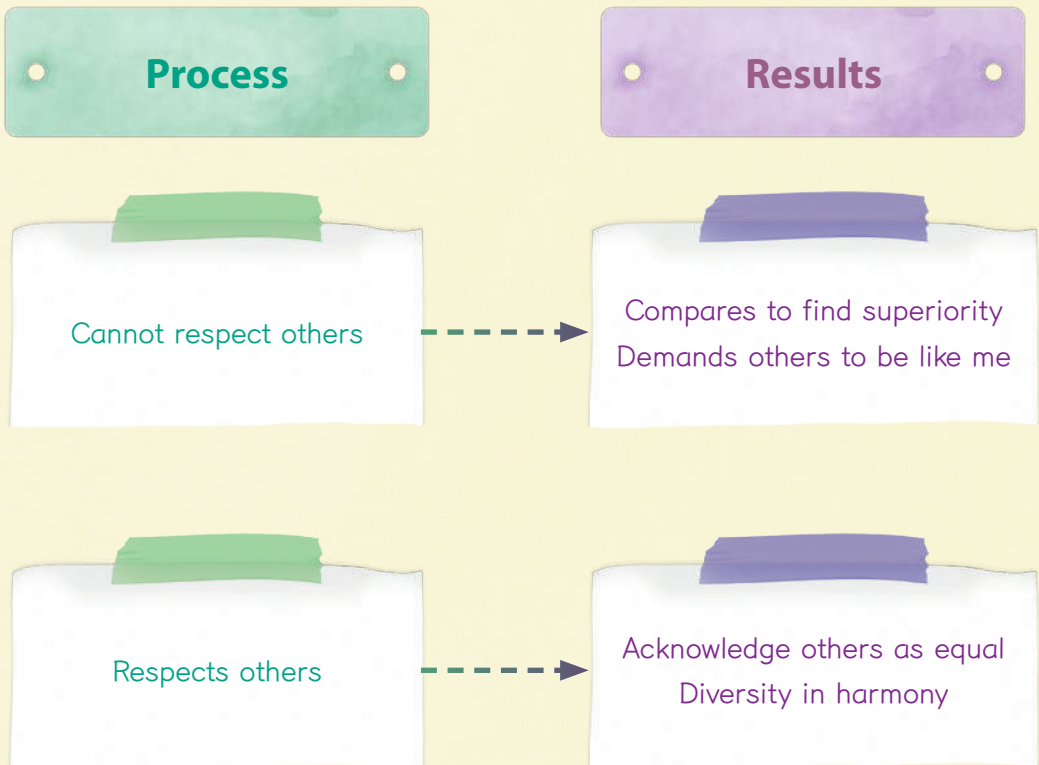
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Application

What people can learn from nature living in harmony is the notion of “respect.” Going beyond the level of simply “acknowledging” each other’s differences, we need to “respect” each other to live in harmony together. Let’s think about people who I could not respect before. Utilizing the table below, let’s find ways to respect the person and carry it out.



3. Cooperation and coexistence

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Helen Keller (American author, 1880-1968)

Harmony is Established upon Collaboration

When we watch people rowing, we see athletes with different levels of strength and skills get on a boat and row together to pass the finish line. Even if an individual's skills are excellent, if they cannot find harmony in the direction and strength when rowing, the boat ends up straying from the lanes. According to a theory in Richard Dawkin's book called "The Selfish Gene," genes are selfish as they only consider their survival. However, there is no possible way for a single gene to survive, so altruistic genes that know how to work together are chosen more often by other genes. Thus, cooperation is the strategy for survival.

As we can see from the example above, collaboration is a process leading to harmony, a process that benefits us.

1. Cooperation and Coexistence in Nature

1) Trees and Fungi

Fungi belong to a different kingdom compared to animals or plants. Within the fungi group, yeast, mold, mushrooms, etc. are included. One of the unique characteristics of fungi is that they do not have photosynthetic pigments such as chlorophyll. As they are not able to photosynthesize like higher plant life, they cannot produce nutrients on their own. This is why they are parasitic or saprophytic.

Such fungi are the best partners to trees. Fungi adhere to the root of trees and spread via soil. The tree provides sugar and carbohydrate the fungi need, and in return, the fungi help trees absorb needed nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and minerals. In addition to this, fungi filter heavy metals harmful to trees and provide protection when damaging fungi or bacteria attack them.



Mushrooms growing by absorbing nutrients from trees



Mushrooms providing the trees with the necessary nutrients

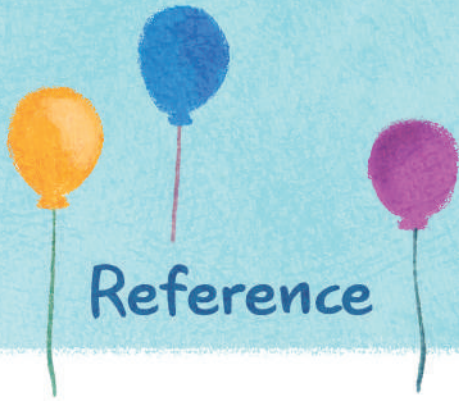
In addition, fungi establish network underground. Within a cup of dirt, many kilometers of hyphae can be found, and so different types of trees are connected through the fungi and are able to share nutrients and information. Hence, a forest is like a living network all in itself. Such a network is also dubbed “wood-wide web.”



2) The Collaboration of Honey Bees

Honey bees live in a society with an organization like ants. The bee society is composed of a queen bee, male bees, and working bees. There is one queen bee per group, and excluding about 100 male bees, the rest are working bees. The working bees go on a search for honey or pollen and once they find them, they do a waggle dance also called the harvest dance. Through these moves, they accurately move towards the direction to the honey or pollens found. When the distance is near, they dance in a circle while the distance is far, they make the Arabic number eight. The speed of the dance reflects the distance to the honey, and the direction can be seen through how slanted they are against the sun. What is astonishing is that this waggle dance is a lingua franca. If the bees from the U.S. were to be brought into Korea to do the dance, Korean honey bees would understand the dance and fly toward honey. As we can see, honey bees have their own language they use to work together.

All reproduction is done through the queen bee. These bees go on wedding flights with male bees and lay eggs while working bees carefully take care of the eggs. Working bees do not give birth, and they only foster the baby bees from queen bees to maintain the group. Working bees live approximately four to five weeks, so they devote their entire life to queen bees and their group. When intruders come into the hives, they sting the attacker to protect queen bees and the eggs. The stingers are connected to their internal organs, so they die after they sting something.



Bees and flowers

Bees gather honey from flowers, and flowers spread pollen and flourish through bees.



Ants and aphids

Ants acquire sugar-rich meals from what aphids excrete, and aphids are protected by ants from their predators.



Clownfish and sea anemones

Clownfish are protected from their predators using sea anemones, and anemones get nutrients from the fish.

2. Efforts Toward Coexistence Between Nature and Humans

As scientific technology develops and industrialization progresses, humanity has often seen nature as a target to conquer. For industrial development, oil and various minerals were excavated in large amounts. According to Green Peace, 72% of Indonesia’s wild forest and 15% of Amazon’s forest have been deforested due to logging, and even at this moment, the size of a soccer field is being destroyed every two seconds. In addition, areas of Arctic glaciers are consistently decreasing due to global warming. Such environmental damage is pushing diverse animals to the point of extinction.

Rather than seeing nature as something to subdue, we need to strive to establish harmony and coexistence with the understanding that we are a part of nature. To this end, the UN Environment Program (UNEP) has designated May 22nd as the “International Day for Biological Diversity,” and the UNEP carries out many campaigns to prevent environmental destruction and to reinforce biodiversity. There are actions we can implement to practice living together with nature such as saving resources, not using disposable products, and being attentive to environmental protection.



Let's look up various examples of symbiotic relationships and share them with the class. Also, let's talk about what we can learn from symbiotic relationships.



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Mutual cooperation does not mean I am the only one benefitting from the relationship, but with both sides enjoying a win-win situation. Let's find ways in which we can cooperate with the members of our family and with peers at school and put them into practice. To this end, let's have a conversation promoting mutual cooperation.



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Original State of All Creation Conclusion



Adolf Hitler, who started WWII, claimed using the survival of the fittest as the basis to say that superior people should dominate and rule over the weak. He also said that even in nature there is a food chain, and it is common to see fighting and death, so war is not against the order of nature. Unfortunately, many people bought in the argument and took part in the war. Consequently, WWII broke out, creating casualties exceeding 70 million.

However, Hitler's argument was based on a misunderstanding of Darwin's theory of the survival of the fittest. According to the rest of the theory, nature maintains diversity to heighten the chance of survival and to adapt to environmental changes. Genetic diversity increases the chance of the fitting appearing, those which are able to adapt better to environmental changes. Also, an ecosystem, in which diverse species form harmony, is healthy and balanced, so these species do not get destroyed easily. This strengthens the food chain and its maintenance.

Within the harmony nature has shown us, the mechanism of cooperation and coexistence are the underlying factors.

Indeed, there are cases where fighting and death occur in nature. However, they are at a level where individuals fight for food for survival, or males fight among themselves to mate with a female. It is rare to find species having war within themselves solely for the purpose of eliminating others, instead of for survival. However, the wars we see in the world today, regardless of the size, are not fights for survival. For the survival of humanity, it would be much better to not have any wars. Wars breaking out due to all kinds of excuses and reasons are destroying not only humanity but nature as well. Who are starting wars that take countless lives away? For what are they doing this? Are there people who truly win or lose in wars? We have to see this from the perspective of mankind.

To draw a picture of what the world of peace that mankind needs to restore looks like, we have seen nature in this lesson. In nature's original state, diversity, harmony, cooperation, and coexistence are the fundamental outline of world peace. In the following lesson, we will look into why nature is harmonious, and think of more specific ways to achieve peace.



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