Most people don’t know the name of Cordell Hull. Other Nobel winners are better known. Martin Luther King and Teddy Roosevelt are famous. Cordell Hull is a hero of peace. Cordell Hull became Secretary of State in 1933. He held that office for 12 years.

Hull was extremely dedicated to his work. He didn’t marry until he was 46 years old. He and his wife had no children. His only hobbies were croquet and golf. He was completely devoted to his political post.

Hull was born in a log cabin in 1871. There were five boys in his family. He was the only child who went to school. He got a law degree at the young age of 20.

Then he ran for the Tennessee State House. He served for three years in the Senate. Later he became Secretary of State for the U.S.

He helped the United States develop good relations. He worked with our Latin American neighbors. He negotiated trade agreements with numerous countries. This was called the “good neighbor policy”.

The allies needed help in World War II. Hull worked to improve cooperation among the Allies. He began to formulate a peace plan. He submitted the “Charter of the United Nations” in August 1943. The Charter was ratified in 1944. Hull had
to resign due to failing health.

President Roosevelt felt grateful to Hull. The United Nations was formed because of him. He helped us get trade agreements with our neighbors. Roosevelt nominated Hull for the Nobel Peace Prize. The committee gave him the prize in 1945.
Suggested Classroom Activities

Introduction/Warm-Up:

Discuss the goals of the United Nation. (www.un.org). Find an article online or in newspaper to help the discussion.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Hull think that a “United Nations” was a good idea?
2. Why did Hull have to stop pursuing his career as a world statesman?
3. How could you support the work of the United Nations?
4. Is the United Nations still a good idea today? Explain your point of view.

Vocabulary:

1. Trade agreements
2. Formulate
3. Ratified
4. Good neighbor policy
5. Allies

Activities:

1. Work in small groups to design a “Good Neighbor Policy” between classrooms. Report back ideas to class.


3. Make a class chart that compares what you did to what the United Nations does.
Read Together

Search for Peace by William Jay Jacobs

United Nations by Susan C. Hunnicut

All the ice of Africa by Silent Creek

Technology Option: Go to http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medals/ to find pictures of the Nobel Peace Prize medal. Design a medal based on that design (it should have both a front and a back!) for the person who has contributed the most to making your school a better place
Resources:

The Cordell Hull Institute
Foreign Policy think-tank: articles for more advanced students.

Friends of Cordell Hull
Online site of the Cordell Hull Museum in Tennessee.
http://www.cordellhullmuseum.com/about.htm
http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/medals/