John Raleigh Mott
1946

He has gone out into the whole world and opened hearts to the idea of peace, to understanding, love and tolerance.

John Raleigh Mott won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946. He shared the honor with Emily Balch. The Nobel Committee recognized his dedication to peace. He improved the quality of human life. The committee said he knew the **fundamental** issue. He opened hearts to tolerance and understanding.

John Mott was born after Lincoln was **assassinated.** At 16 years, he enrolled in university. He became active in the Student Christian Association. He decided to become a Christian leader. He was president of the local Y.M.C.A. He graduated with honors.

He worked for the Y.M.C.A. all his life. He was president of the international Y.M.C.A. for 11 years.

John Mott became a leader in other organizations. He continued to spread the message of peace. In 1895, he started the World's Student Christian Federation. He traveled around the world. He visited twenty-four nations. He worked for the World's Student Christian Federation. They believed in the brotherhood and sisterhood of all people. They united all races, nationalities, and **creeds.** They stood against injustice, inequality, and violence. They thought there were other ways to solve problems. Mott's **hallmark characteristic** was world travel. He traveled over two million miles to achieve peace.

- **He was a missionary, author, speaker, "world citizen"**
- **He was a Leader in the Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.)**
- **He was a Member of special peace teams to Russia and Mexico**
- **He was Founder of the World's Student Christian Federation in 1895**

John Mott was honored all over the world. President Wilson sent him to Russia and Mexico. He helped the President during WW I.

When World War II broke out, Mott went to work again. He was getting old but the president needed him. He started programs again to help people.

John R. Mott received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946. His life purpose was to help those in need. His faith helped him lead many people through war and troubled times. He said, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” His vision was for peace and goodwill. He believed in people’s basic goodness. He died at his home in Orlando, Florida on January 31, 1955.

Suggested Classroom Activities

Introduction/Warm-Up:

Talk about why Mott believed in people. How did this make him feel?

Discussion Questions:

1. Name two things that John Mott had that helped make him a strong leader. (Level 1)
2. Why did John Mott choose Christian leadership? (Level 1)
3. How did Mott's religion make him more effective in dealing with other people? (Level 2)
4. Talk about someone else who likes to lead young people. (Level 2)
5. What is the greatest cause for hope for the future? (Level 3)
6. Does Mott give you ideas for your life? What ideas? (Level 3)

Vocabulary:

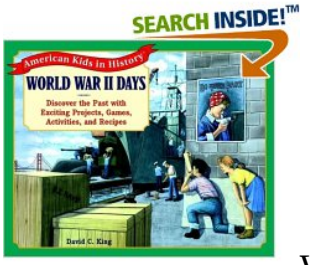
1. **Assassinated**
2. **Perish**
3. **Hallmark characteristic**
4. **Fundamental**
5. **Creeds**

Activities:

1. Learn about a homeless shelter, Y.M.C.A., or other organization. Interview someone who works there. Invite someone from the agency to come talk to your class.
2. Make a poster about how to help people in your town. Hang it in the hall.
3. Volunteer in younger students' classrooms. Tell your class about your experience. Have a buddy in this classroom to read to, write letters to, or play games with.
4. Compare Mott's World War II experience to other Nobel winners who lived during World War II. Make a chart.

Read together

World War II for Kids by Richard Panchyk



World War II Days: Discover the Past by David C. King

Technology Option:

Background: A key to John R. Mott's winning the Nobel Peace Prize was his commitment to Christian beliefs. Find the religions of other Nobel winners.

Compare. What were their beliefs? How did this influence how they served?

(See biographies of other prize winners at this website)

Resources:

http://iagenweb.org/boards/allamakee/biographies/index.cgi?rev=47283
www.abcog.org/mott1.htm
www.bookrags.com/biography-john-r-mott
www.nobelprize.org
www.ymca.net
http://www.volunteermatch.org/