



**READ
LEARN
INSPIRE**



The well of lost wishes

This resource was created to accompany the Green-Schools Ireland Global Goals Book Club.

www.greenschoolsireland.org





Global Goal 16: Peace Justice and Strong Institutions



This resource is designed to inspire your classroom with engaging activities that support critical thinking and meaningful discussions centred around the Global Goal of 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions'.

Age Group: Junior Infants - 6th class

Included in this resource:

- The Well of Lost Wishes Discussion Questions
- My Wish for the World (Junior Infants - 2nd Class)
- Theatrix of Law Activity (3rd - 6th class)

Global Goals Book Club and Global Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Teaching children about Global Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions is important to lay the foundation for a fair and just society where everyone's rights are respected. By learning about this goal through stories like "The Well of Lost Wishes" and "I Dissent: Ruth Bader Ginsburg Makes Her Mark," children understand the importance of resolving conflicts peacefully, upholding human rights, and promoting inclusive and accountable institutions. "The Well of Lost Wishes," an Irish Traveller tale, highlights themes of justice and fairness through its storytelling, encouraging empathy and understanding of diverse cultural perspectives. "I Dissent" introduces children to the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, emphasising her advocacy for gender equality and civil rights, inspiring them to stand up for justice and equality. These stories empower children to become active participants in creating a world where peace, justice, and strong institutions prevail for all.

We would love to see pictures of your bookworms artwork and creations from the activities in our Global Goals Book Club. Please email any photos to globalcitizenship@eeu.an.taisce.org

The Well of Lost Wishes

The Well of Lost Wishes

Read or listen to the story 'The Well of lost wishes' with your class. The story is retold from a collection of short stories by Oien DeBhairduin: 'Why the Moon Travels.' The questions below offer a guide for discussion with your class, along with some actions and activities to complete.



[Listen to the story here.](#)

Discussion Questions:

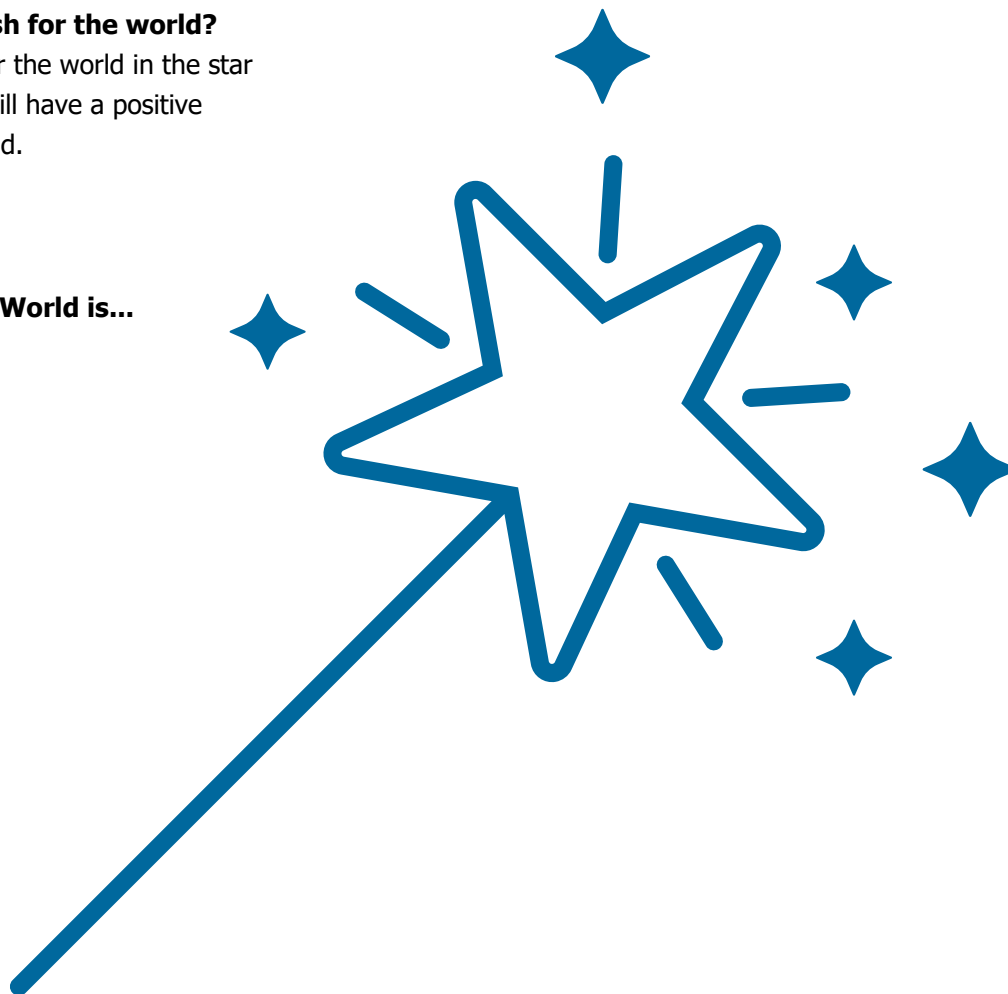
1. What is the main event that happens when the couple first visits the well?
2. How does the well affect the traveller community initially?
3. What changes in the traveller community after everyone visits the well?
4. Why do you think the well stopped granting wishes?
5. Do you think it's fair that the well eventually stopped granting wishes? Why or why not?
6. How do the different wishes reflect the values and needs of the travellers?
7. What lesson do you think the story is trying to teach about asking for things?
8. How do the actions of the travellers relate to the idea of fairness and justice?
9. In what ways did the well promote peace and well-being initially?
10. What can we learn from the way the travellers' wishes changed over time?
11. Why is it important for everyone to have equal access to resources like the well?
12. What might have happened if the travellers only made wishes for things that were really important?
13. What role did storytelling play in spreading the news about the well? Why was this important?
14. How can we ensure that resources in our community are used fairly and justly?
15. If you could make one wish at the well, what would it be and why?

My Wish for the World

What is your wish for the world?

Write your wish for the world in the star and draw how it will have a positive impact on the world.

My Wish for the World is...

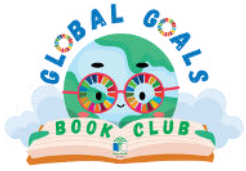


It will help the world because...

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing the first reason.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing the second reason.

Empty rounded rectangular box for writing the third reason.



Goal 16 Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions

Activity sheet.

**Brehon Law:
Honour price & compensation.**

For Global Goal 16, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions we are going to take a trip back in history to pre-Christian Ireland. It was a time when an ancient set of laws governed the land, the Brehon Laws.

The Brehon Law was a very sophisticated law system that was upheld in Ireland for thousands of years. These were known as "the laws of the land" or "the laws of the neighbourhood" This ancient set of laws existed in Ireland well before other countries had any such system of law. The "old wisdom" was known word for word by the Brehon, or judges, who would recite it in poetic style. The Brehon, studied up to 20 years before they would be allowed to make a 'judgement' on a conflict. Both male and female judges existed.

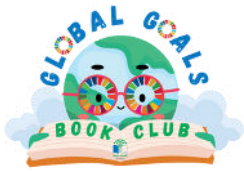
The Laws were honour and compensation based and were means tested, for example those who had the highest standing in the community had to pay higher fines. This was known as your 'honour price'.

The Brehons were the keepers of these laws, which dealt with every aspect of living in a community. There were lots of rights for women and laws to protect animals, birds and trees. Cattle, pigs and horses were all units of currency under Brehon law with milking cows being the most prized. However along with cattle, the Brehons devoted much value to bees. According to Brehon law, "any bumble bee – 'bumbóg' in Irish – taking nectar from plants on a neighbour's land could be accused of grazing trespass in the same way a cow or sheep would be if they strayed onto a neighbour's land."

Bees are a little harder to fence in than cattle and sheep, so the law granted a beekeeper "three years of freedom during which time his bees were allowed free reign but on the fourth year the first swarm to issue from the hive had to be given to the neighbour as payment." Bee stings were also covered. Victims were entitled to a meal of honey from the bee's keeper. If, however, they died as a result of the sting, two hives were paid in compensation to their family. This ruling was null and void, however, if the victim killed the bee in retaliation.

All aspects of community life were considered including the importance of nature and trees. The ancient Irish knew the importance of trees in the community and had a strict law system regarding cutting, felling and using trees and shrubs. For cutting of a noble tree without permission; there was a fine of 2 milk cows and a 3-year-old heifer.

So now it's over to you, to be the judges.....



Goal 16 Peace, Justice, & Strong Institutions

Activity sheet.

THEATRIX OF LAW

Imagine that you are the Brehon in a community, the wisdom holders. You must agree to the law and on a fair way of restoring justice and peace.

In small groups discuss first what Brehon laws you think might work today for your school or local community? What is important to protect? How would honour price and compensation work? (remember non-money compensation)

It's now your turn to decide the law. What is important, beyond money that could be exchanged and help bring about peace.

To get started, pick from some of the suggestions below. Pick some people to act out the role of the people seeking justice or in conflict. The rest of the class sit in court as the Brehons who decide on fair justice to restore the peace. When you get the hang of that, feel free to write your own scenarios on small pieces of paper and put them in a hat.

Example scenarios, to be judged:

A. Three neighbours and one cat.

One neighbour claims that a cat has been killing songbirds in their garden and feel that it's very unfair. Another neighbour claims they like to feed the cat but it is not theirs. The other neighbour feels they are no longer the owner of the cat as it spends just as much time in both the other neighbours' houses. Give the actors a few minutes to chat between themselves before bringing their matter before the Brehons. The Brehons ask questions and listen and take time to deliberate a fair law.

B. 2 gardeners and a thief.

The two gardeners have noticed food going missing from their veggie patch every day for a month until one day they caught the thief in action. The thief claims that they have a family to feed and are hungry and have no place to grow their own food. The Brehons listen and then take just action.

C. An elderly couple, a wood cutter and a timber company owner.

The elderly couple have been living beside an old ancient woodland since as long as they can remember. They have watched these trees grow and the forest thicken. Then many of the trees have been cut down, without warning. However the woodland is on common land. The wood cutter needs the timber to exchange for food and take care of their dog and was only following orders from the company owner. The company owner explains its all about profits, enriching the community and sure more trees can be planted. What will the Brehons decide?

Get the idea? You can choose real events or completely made up ones depending on the age group and interest of the group.