### The Peace Palace

Information for a class presentation for children aged 10-13 years old



The Peace Palace is situated in The Hague, a historical city in the Netherlands. It has a Visitors Centre where you can learn everything about the Peace Palace. Also, you will get the opportunity to take advantage of our free audio tour, specially made for children. So if you are in the neighbourhood you can pay a visit. Take your parents with you or even your whole class! Visit our website for the opening times.

There may be guided tours on the day of your visit. It would be really interesting for you and your classmates if you could describe your own experience of the Peace Palace in your presentation. You can check when guided tours are available on our website.

There is a lot of information available about the Peace Palace on the internet. You may not see the wood for the trees! This is why we have made it slightly easier for you, by selecting its most important events, years and people.

On the following pages you will find an explanation of what the Peace Palace is, what happens there and why this is important.

Try to make an interesting story out of this information, in your own words. You don't have to use everything.

You can also choose to focus your presentation on someone who has been important to the Peace Palace, for example Hugo Grotius or Bertha von Suttner. Or on the role of someone who is currently working there, like a judge.

You can conclude your talk by having all of your classmates write a wish for a peaceful world on a wish tag and exhibit them. You can glue them on a large sheet of paper or create a 'peace tree' by hanging them on a tree.

Rehearse your presentation a few times with a family member, neighbour, or close friend, before you present it in front of the class. Have they understood everything you said? Can you explain it well? Yes? Then you are ready!

You have chosen an interesting topic and written a good story. Therefore, do everything you can to get all your classmates' attention and keep them listening to what you have to tell them. Speak clearly and remember to occasionally look up and around the classroom. Go for it!



## What is the Peace Palace?



The words say it all: the Peace Palace is the palace of peace. Here work is done to **keep peace** between countries and to ensure trouble between countries is avoided. And if a country already has a problem with another country, it can be resolved in the Peace Palace. If left unsolved then those problems and arguments could easily turn into war!

This is exactly what used to happen regularly in the past. During these wars, which sometimes lasted for a very long time, men, women and children were injured or even killed, leaving their families behind without a

father, daughter or brother. Men and women lost their

loved ones. Crops, such as grain in the fields, was often eaten by soldiers or completely destroyed. The armies

there was much destruction. As a result, families often

robbed and plundered. Cities were set on fire and

decided to pack a few of their belongings, leave their homes and make their way to a safer place, if they could find one.

War costs a lot of money, not only to pay for the soldiers and their weapons but also to restore what had been damaged. Money that could have been spent on schools, hospitals or other improvements. So it is better to avoid war altogether.

It is not only in the past that arguments and problems have time and again resulted in war. The possibility of war breaking out still remains. All too often a new war flares up and this is why people at the Peace Palace work hard every day.





# Let's bury the hatchet



### How do the people in the Peace Palace work for peace?

Quarrels often arise because each person involved wants something different to happen: imagine you and your brother or sister both want to play with the ball on your own. Or to sit in that one comfy chair in front of the TV. If you don't want to argue about it every day then you had all better agree on a fair solution. Things often go wrong if no proper agreements have been made, or if one party does not follow this agreement.

Countries too, are better off making good, solid agreements with each other. For example, where a border is situated, where one country ends and the other begins. Agreements between countries can be written down in **treaties**. Sometimes there are centuries old agreements that are not on paper but have been considered by everyone as a 'silent' agreement. Those agreements are valid too. However, sometimes problems arise before a treaty can be created.

The Peace Palace was built for a court, the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Countries with a disagreement with each other can turn to the court's

**arbitrators** if they want to resolve this. Arbitrators are like judges. The countries tell them what has caused the quarrel and the arbitrators listen carefully to both countries; to both sides of the argument. They also think it is important that the countries understand each other's point of view, so that they won't quarrel again in the near future.

The arbitrators carefully study which agreements have been made in the past. Then they decide what is the best and fairest solution. The countries must agree with the arbitrators' decision. Whether they like it or not; the countries have agreed to listen to the outcome in advance. A deal is a deal: the judgement is the judgement. No takesies backsies! Thus the problem between two countries is resolved and the quarrel ends.

Sometimes one of the countries does not get what it wanted. Yet both countries are often very happy with the arbitrators' decision. This is usually because at least the quarrel is over and now they can focus on other issues.



# Here comes trouble



Countries don't argue about who gets to choose first from all those tasty chocolates of course. And they won't fight because you first have to knock before you enter your sibling's bedroom. Or start a quarrel about who owns the swing in the garden. However, countries also have enough things to disagree on, or argue about. Let's just think about it:



#### **Borders**

Sometimes it is unclear where the border between two countries is positioned, for example in deserts or mountains. Through the centuries this was considered unimportant to many countries. Only shepherd's sheep would graze there where the grass

was green, or seemed greener. No problem at all! However, this could change when valuable raw materials, such as oil, is found in the ground along the border area. Then both countries can suddenly start to think that the area, and therefore these raw materials, are theirs. That can then turn into a big fight!

**Guyana and Suriname** are two neighbouring countries in South America. The border between them is a river. The river flows into the sea. Guyana thinks that the river still belongs to Guyana but Suriname thinks that the river belongs entirely to Suriname. They've been arguing about it for years. People in Guyana and Suriname get their oil from Venezuela, to run their cars and factories. However, many people in these countries are poor and Venezuelan oil is expensive.

Imagine that on a certain day oil is found at the river mouth. What luck! Now people expect they don't have to pay for the expensive Venezuelan oil anymore. Immediately the border quarrel flares up again. Both countries believe that the river belongs to their country and, so does the oil! Suriname and Guyana therefore decide to ask the Permanent Court of Arbitration where the border exactly runs.





#### Fish

In countries with a sea coastline, a lot of fish is often eaten. For the fishermen, the market traders and the restaurants, fish are very important because people like seafood. With fish comes trade and money! Even though the oceans are owned by all countries together, it has been agreed upon that everyone is only allowed to fish off their own coast and not somewhere else. It has also been agreed by countries how many kilometres away from your own coast you may catch fish. Here's the tricky part. Some countries own small islands far away from their mainland and they want to fish around those islands too. However,

their mainland and they want to fish around those islands for away from their mainland and they want to fish around those islands too. However, those islands may be situated in or very close to the fishing area of a neighbouring country, so fishing boats may accidentally make a mistake. Or ... maybe ... it wasn't a real mistake?!

### Damage

Factories or cargo ships sometimes dump toxic waste into a river or the sea. Not only people from their own country, but also people in neighbouring countries or even countries further away, can suffer from this. The people or their livestock can get ill or their crops no longer grow properly. It costs a lot of money to purify water and a disagreement can arise over who will pay to put things right again.



Watch the video in the **workbook** about Argentina and Uruguay who agreed to take good care of the river that flows between them

One of the largest rivers in The Netherlands is the Rhine. Before the river flows into The Netherlands, it has already come a long way. Starting in the Swiss mountains it flows through France, Germany and through The Netherlands into the North Sea. Ministers of these countries all agreed to ensure that the water of the Rhine will remain clean. People in the Netherlands use water from the Rhine as tap water and to water their greenhouse plants. Although they purify it thoroughly first of course.

One day the companies that had to purify the water noticed they had to filter it more than normal. There was much more salt in the water, more than ever before! The purifying machines were working overtime which cost a lot of money.

It soon became apparent that the salt had entered the river in France, from the mines close to the Rhine. The Netherlands argued that France should forbid these factories from pouring their waste water into the river. The Dutch also thought that France should make a contribution to the water purification costs.

This was the start of a quarrel. The big question was: how much should France pay the Netherlands?

They disagreed and decided to go to the Peace Palace, where the arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration ordered France to prevent too much salt from entering the Rhine. They also decided how much France had to pay the Netherlands for purifying the water. Now it was clear what needed to be done, there was no reason to continue arguing. The countries could be friends again.





#### **Islands**

There are many uninhabited islands in the seas and oceans. Often no one has ever had the slightest interest in them because they are sometimes so small or so rough you cannot live on them. Until one country decides they want to use the islands. For example, to build a port. Or to drill for gas or oil. Maybe the ground is full of it! That country will be able to earn a lot from it! When that happens, other countries start to scratch their heads thinking... 'Hey, are those islands actually yours?'



Watch the video in the **workbook** about Yemen and Eritrea. These countries are both bordering the Red Sea, a sea through which many ships sail and trade takes place. In the Red Sea was a group of little islands, but nobody knew exactly to which country they belonged. Eritrea and Yemen have therefore referred this question to the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

### **Diplomats & Spies**

When you are with your grandparents, you must follow their rules. For example, what time they want to eat. Or maybe they prefer you to take off your shoes before you step into their house, even though you don't have to do that at home.

Countries as well have agreed that you must behave properly when you are in another country. After all, you are a guest! So you have to obey the rules of that country. If you do something illegal, something that is not allowed according to the law of the country, then you can't be arrested, or imprisoned just like that. Firstly, you should always get a fair trial. You

should get help from a lawyer or **diplomat** from your own country. The country where you are arrested and accused has to arrange this. Countries have also agreed that you are not allowed to spy when you are visiting; spying is prohibited for everyone.



**India and Pakistan** are neighbours but anything but friends. You could even say that they are enemies. Sometimes there are uprisings by rebels against the government in Pakistan. Pakistan suspects India of helping these rebels a bit. Because India does not mind at all when life is made a bit difficult for the Pakistan Government.

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During one such uprising in Pakistan, the police arrested an Indian man, Mr. Jadhav. They sentenced him to death, convinced that he was a spy. And spying is not allowed. You wouldn't probably like it as well if somebody snooped into your room! India quickly went to the International Court of Justice asking for a halt to the sentence set by Pakistan: Mr. Jadhav was innocent but had not had a fair trial where he could defend himself. Nor had he received any help from a diplomat. Mr. Jadhav was Indian so India wanted Pakistan to send him back home to India.

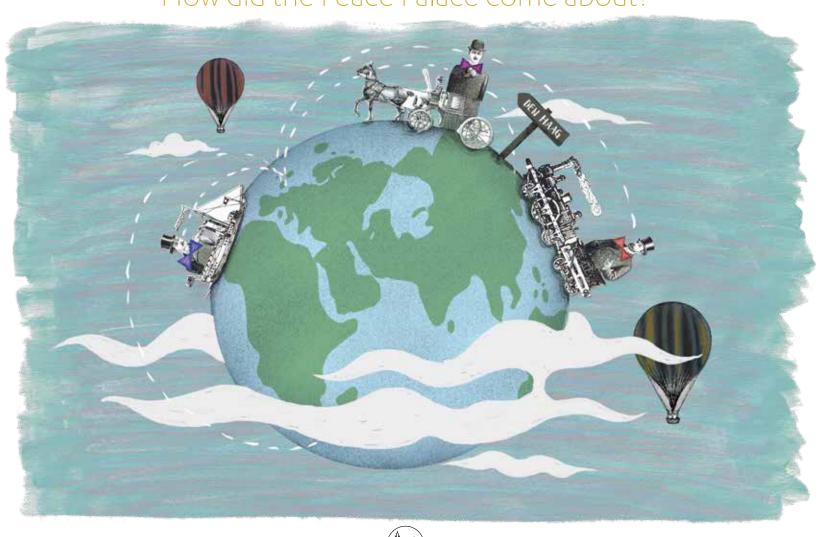
The Court cannot judge whether or not Mr. Jadhav was an Indian spy. But they did judge that Pakistan should have given him a fair trial in which he should have been helped by an Indian diplomat.





## From year to year

How did the Peace Palace come about?



The Peace Palace was opened in 1913, so it is more than a century old. For six years they worked every day: bricklaying, woodworking, painting. However, before this actual building of the Palace could start, a lot of preparation work had to take place.

tes turned into war. They agreed that they would all turn to that court as soon as problems arose and that they would then submit to the judgement of the court. So, at the end of the First Hague Peace Conference, the representatives of all those countries established the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Countries from all over the world sent a minister or other important gentleman to The Hague in the year 1899 to attend the First Hague Peace Conference which was to be held in one of the palaces of the Dutch Queen. This meant a long journey for some of these gentlemen because there were no airplanes yet. So, they travelled for days or sometimes weeks, by ship, carriage, or train.

At this Peace Conference, the ministers and other **representatives** discussed with each other the best way to prevent future wars. What if we all, and all at the same time, gave up our weapons? Or dismissed our armies? That seemed like a great idea to many ordinary citizens. Even so, many countries could not agree with this...considering to themselves, 'What if...?'

What they did consider to be a good idea though was to set up a court, where countries could be represented. Here their disagreements and quarrels could be resolved before dispu-

1903 The bigwigs proudly travelled back home, they had written history together! With the arrival of this new court the world could finally turn into a peaceful place...a huge responsibility for the arbitrators.

It was agreed that this task was difficult but just, one that commanded respect from everyone. So they decided that the Perma-

nent Court of Arbitration deserved an impressive building, a real palace. A Palace for Peace.

Andrew Carnegie, one of the richest people in the world at that time, with a big heart and a love for peace, was asked to make this wonderful idea possible. He agreed. He wrote out a huge cheque for \$1.5 million dollars. That would now be 43 million euros. His generosity meant the construction of the Peace Palace could begin!

.... Andrew Carnegie



On a large piece of land on the edge of The Hague, a nice, suitable location was found on which the new palace was to be build, set in its own beautiful garden. How should this new palace actually look? Famous architects from around the world were given the chance to come up with their most creative plans. They submitted their best ideas: large colourful sketches of stately palaces, chic palaces, fairy-tale palaces and dreamy palaces fell onto the mat. Nothing was too crazy! Eventually the jury fell in love with the design by a French architect, Louis Marie Cordonnier. His palace.... this was the one to become the palace of peace.

Let's think ... Building a palace in just six years? That is a very short amount of time for such a large building! Not only did they work hard, the builders also used building materials with which they could build very quickly, such as steel and concrete.

All representatives travelled again to The Hague in 1907 to see with their own eyes that the very first stone of the Peace Palace was at last being laid. Of course there was a big party and during the festivities they all promised that they would contribute to the palace by giving a present. This present could be a special work of art or building materials such as wood or marble.

The Peace Palace was opened!

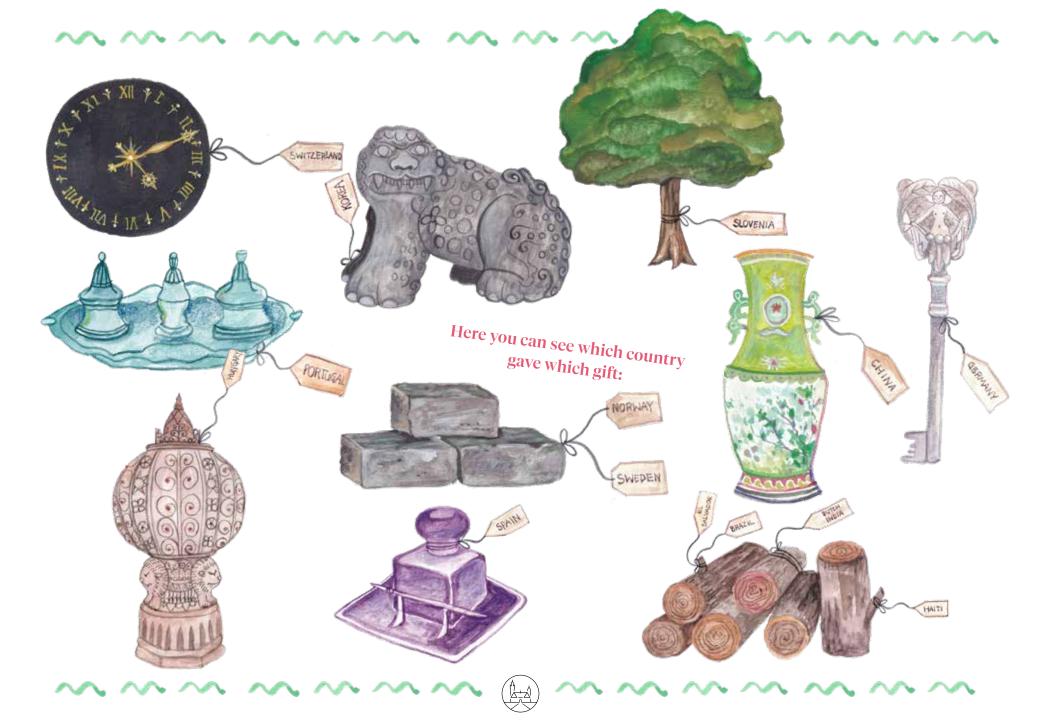
On the 4th of September 1913 the Permanent Court was able to take up residence in a building where both inside and out, peace was depicted in all kinds of ways. Heads of State came from far and wide to witness this for themselves. Naturally, Andrew Carnegie was also present! Journalists from all over the world wrote praising reviews and the residents of The Hague gazed on with curiosity from the side of the road at the arrival of all the beautiful carriages with important ladies and gentlemen. This made world news headlines!

### And after that...

From the day the palace was opened, everyone was very curious whether the world would really change. Each time people hoped for peace, they also thought of the Peace Palace. Whenever they saw the Peace Palace, they again hoped there would never be another war. Nonetheless it came. In fact, two wars broke out that were bigger than any war ever before. The World Wars.

Fortunately, the Peace Palace was not only featured on the front page of many newspapers in 1913, even nowadays the palace work is often frontpage news. For example, when a difficult **conflict** is resolved. This is because the world's wish for peace is still up and running, just like the palace itself.





### In the lead role

To whom do we owe the Peace Palace?



Tsar Nicholas II ruled Russia, where many wars had already taken place. He thought wars were too expensive. He was also convinced that wars would claim more and more victims because more harmful techniques were introduced to cause damage on the enemy. A sad future, thought Tsar Nicholas. That is why in 1899 he invited representatives from all countries to the First Peace Conference in The Hague. With success! They were all present.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands was the grandniece of Tsar Nicholas and she gladly assisted him in making his dream come true, organizing the First Hague Peace Conference. She offered one of her most beautiful palaces in The Hague for this meeting. The palace where nowadays the current Dutch King and Queen live! The Netherlands was a suitable country for this conference because it was neutral. It had had no special friends or enemies, so nobody

in this country could feel privileged or disadvantaged.



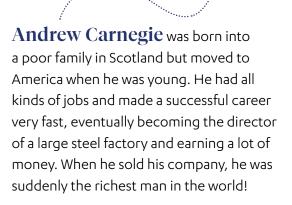


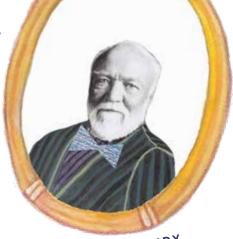
Bertha von Suttner, an Austrian baroness, had seen war with her own eyes and wrote a book about it in 1889. The book, Lay Down Your Arms!, made a big impression and became world famous. Bertha von Suttner was naturally eager to participate in the First Hague Peace Conference. But because she did not represent a country and was a woman, she did not receive an invitation. Therefore, she rented a nice room in a nearby hotel to enable her to quietly pass on valuable advice

Hugo Grotius had died a long time before the Peace Palace was built. Still, the question remains

as to whether the palace would have ever existed without him. Centuries earlier he had thought of and written down rules which countries should keep to during a war, or why treaties are so important to prevent misunderstandings. The books he wrote about this were used by many countries to help establish good rules and agreements with each other.

to the ministers and representatives as they occasionally drank tea with her.





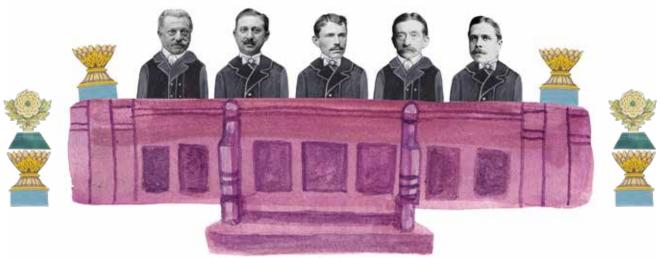
He did not want to keep his fortune to himself, but rather spend it on things that made the world a little better. It was for this reason that he donated a lot of money to libraries, gave thousands of pipe organs to churches and concert halls and paid for the construction of the Peace Palace!

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### The Palace residents

Who works at the Peace Palace?



### The Permanent Court of Arbitration

The Permanent Court of Arbitration is the oldest organization in the Peace Palace. This court existed before the Peace Palace was built, it was even the reason for building the Peace Palace!

If two countries are arguing and cannot come up with a satisfying solution for themselves, they can bring their case before this court. They then ask the arbitrators, this is what we call the judges of this court, to decide on the best solution.

The countries together decide how the court cases will look. This means, for instance, that they can choose between them which language will be

spoken. They also determine if the press may be present or not to report on the case for the newspapers. The most important and special factor is that the countries themselves can appoint someone who will serve as their arbitrator during the court case. Their candidate must of course be someone who knows a lot about rules, laws and treaties! The countries each choose someone as their arbitrator and together the arbitrators choose another person to be their chairman. This way they always end up with an odd number, which is useful when there is a vote.





### **International Court of Justice**

For years, the Permanent Court of Arbitration was the only court in the Peace Palace. In 1945, just after the World War II, **the United Nations**, was founded. Countries that joined the United Nations, or UN in short, promised to keep to the rules to maintain peace and prevent the outbreak of war. The UN also established its own court: The International Court of Justice. This court was invited to work in the Peace Palace too! And from that day on, there were two courts in the Peace Palace.

The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges, all of whom are present at every trial. Together they listen to what the countries have to say, discuss the rights and wrongs and arrive at a judgement.

The judges come from all different countries. Yet they are not there to speak on behalf of their own country, otherwise each country would send its own judge.

### **Good to know**

English and French is spoken during these UN court sessions. Translators are available for those who are not fluent in French or in English. This is why the judges in photos are always seen wearing headphones so they can hear the translators, not because they are listening to pop music!





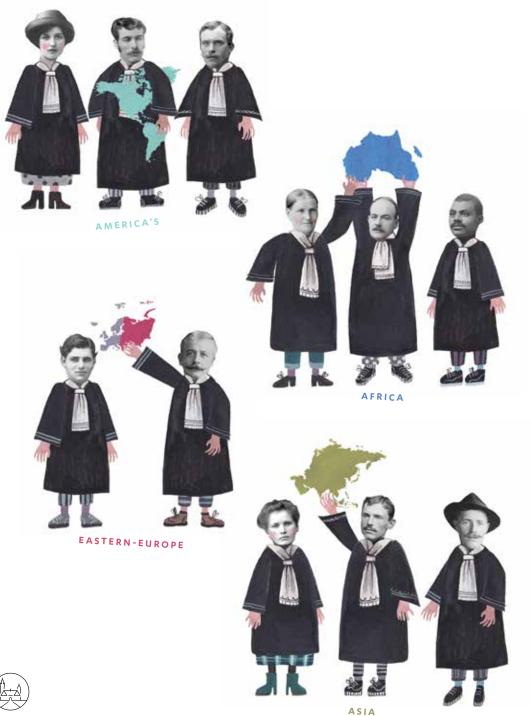
A judge may sit on the Court for 9 years. It is then the turn of another country to send a judge.

The judges have to be completely impartial, meaning they must never favour any particular country. For example, if they like to go there on holiday. Or know someone there. It has also been established how many judges may be appointed per continent. Obviously, the amount of people living on each continent differs. This means the Court also has more judges from one continent than from another. The judges are a kind of mirror to the world's population!

So, together the judges form a real World Court.

#### Good to know

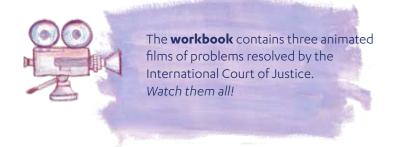
Since the opening of the Peace Palace, many organizations that also work for peace and justice have come to The Hague. One such organization is the International Criminal Court. This is also an international law court but it is not housed in the Peace Palace. And it is not for countries, it is for individuals. The International Criminal Court decides whether someone suspected of having oppressed, exploited or even murdered other people, is guilty or innocent. If found guilty then he or she will receive punishment for their crime.





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Countries who are members of the United Nations and have a problem with another member can submit their dispute to the International Court of Justice, if talking and negotiating amongst themselves didn't bring a solution. They can do this together, but very often it is one country who asks for help first. For example, when one country believes that another is not keeping to an agreement. They can ask the Court to force the other country to court as well, to end the quarrel. Not all countries are happy with this, sometimes they prefer not to come. But if they want to be a member of the United Nations, they must always listen to its judges.







### What are the main differences between the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Court of Justice?



Maybe you can ask your classmates this question!

- The Permanent Court of Arbitration is much older than the International Court of Justice
- Everyone who appears at the Permanent Court of Arbitration does so voluntarily. At the International Court of Justice you can be summoned to appear
- The International Court of Justice is the court of the United Nations
- The countries represented at the International Court of Justice are always member of the United Nations
- No country can send more than one representative judge to the International Court of Justice and at the Permanent Court of Arbitration they can sent their own judge!
- Judges wear robes at the International Court of Justice and at the Permanent Court suits
- At the International Court of Justice translators are often needed as only French and English languages are spoken there. At the Permanent Court of Arbitration you can choose which language is used during the court cases.



### The Hague Academy

Students who would like to work as a lawyer representing a country, a **diplomat** or a judge, can take lessons at The Hague Academy at the Peace Palace. These lessons are on International Law: rules which apply to all countries, about how they should treat each other. Many of

these rules were written down by Hugo Grotius. The students and professors who follow and teach these lessons come to The Hague Academy from all over the world. In this way, the students learn a lot about each other's country and culture both during and after their lessons.

The Peace Palace Library

Andrew Carnegie already knew: when you read books, you learn how the world works. The more you know about people in other countries, the better you understand what is important to them and what they could argue about with their neighbours. They may have already fought over

something! You can read about all this in the Peace Palace Library. You can also find which rules and laws are valid in each country or which treaties countries have signed.

Also, the books by Bertha von Suttner and Hugo Grotius are kept there! The judges of the International Court of Justice and the arbitrators of the Permanent Court of Arbitration visit there every day to borrow books to prepare for a law court case. Students who would like to become a judge or diplomat also study from books from the Peace Palace Library.

### **Carnegie Foundation**

For all these palace residents, the palace must be in tip-top order every day. Country's representatives must be able to be hospitably received, court cases must be prepared and court hearings held in peace and quiet. For this important work, the Peace Palace must always be safe to work in, look tidy, all lights must be on, the doors must not squeak, the works of art must be in good condition and the grass mowed. The Carnegie Foundation takes care of this. Named after the man who once made sure the palace could be built, this foundation ensures that the palace remains as worthy and respected as when it first opened. The Carnegie Foundation also organizes meetings for important people where they can talk and reflect on the world's bigger problems that may well lead to conflict. For example climate change.





### Good luck!





### A small round of applause to end with!

You have now learnt a lot about the Peace Palace. You have read how the palace came to be, who works there and how their work ensures that there is less and less war and more and more peace.

You might wonder why there are still so many battles in the world? Often these battles are not between countries but within a country. For example, between different groups of people in the same country. This is called civil war. The problems they argue and fight about often have to do with people being very poor, not being treated fairly or not feeling safe. Or about which group can live where. Many people from different organisations are working daily to solve these problems, from within the United Nations, various organizations in The Hague and elsewhere in the world. Perhaps even people in your school, your football club, the neighbourhood, place of worship or you yourself, are working to prevent or solve conflict.

The Peace Palace has been able to ensure that many potential wars never actually broke out. Moreover, there are less wars nowadays compared to the past. Students at The Hague Academy learn everything about International Law. They keep it in their heads and hearts to later share it

in their homeland and future work what they have learnt about peace and justice. In the Peace Palace Library many books on International Law can be found and anyone can borrow them. In fact, all governments around the world are pretty well aware of what is allowed or absolutely not under International Law. And if problems persist then they know they can go to two different courts, both located in a beautiful palace!

Fortunately, they do that very often. Not only the different palace residents do their utmost. Also, the worldly ministers and presidents deserve a round of applause! Good agreements have been made throughout the years about many problems and they are written down in treaties. And if countries are not so happy with these agreements after all, or if new problems have arisen, they first have to sit down with each other and talk. And if they really, really, really don't agree with each other... then they know where to go.

The fact that so many countries wanted the Peace Palace to be built and that so many conflicts have already been resolved through work done within the Peace Palace, shows that you must always keep working as well as hoping for a better world for everyone!



## Glossary

**Arbitration** – finding a good solution to resolve an argument and make a fair decision by looking at both sides of the situation and laws, regulations and treaties

**Conference** - a meeting to discuss a particular topic

Court - an organization that decides who is right and who is wrong in a disagreement by looking at laws, rules or agreements. This decision is always made by one or more judges

Court Case - when a quarrel is discussed in a court of law. During a court hearing judges listen to the arguments presented by both parties

Diplomat - someone who negotiates with another country on behalf of his or her own country

**Neutral** - not belonging, or connected to one side or the other

Party - the one who has a quarrel, over which the court makes a decision. Does one country have a fight with another country? Then the countries are called the two parties. Are you arguing with your neighbour? Then you and the boy or girl next door are the parties **Quarrel** – something you do not agree upon, a disagreement

**United Nations** - an organization of almost all countries in the world in which they consult with each other about problems and make agreements. Countries also help each other when there is famine, a natural disaster or other major problems that the country cannot solve on its own

Representative - someone who speaks on behalf of a country or a company or, for example, your school or another individual **Submit** – to give in to the power of another. So if the court makes a decision, you have to listen, even if you don't agree

**Treaty** - an agreement between countries that is laid down on paper. The countries that made the agreement with each other have signed the agreement. This way everyone knows on what they have agreed

**Trial** – a court case in which is decided whether or not a person has broken a particular law. This word is only used for persons, not for countries

This Information sheet was created by the Carnegie Foundation. The Carnegie Foundation takes good care of the Peace Palace every day and therefore considers it important that everyone knows what beautiful and special things are happening in the palace.

The Carnegie Foundation finds it perhaps even more important that not only work for peace is carried out within the Peace Palace but that everyone does something in their own way for peace. We therefore think it is FANTASTIC that you will play your part and give your presentation about the Peace Palace....!







### Carnegie Foundation

March 2021

Illustrations: Gradi Nitert

**Design:** Reinier Hamel

**Text:** Christien Uringa

**Translation:** Anne Okkerse