

The Peaceable Kingdom and the Penn Treaty Tree

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Heartland Friends Meeting, Wichita KS

(Have Hicks' Peaceable Kingdom painting in front of you.) Today our story is about this painting. This is a famous Quaker painting called "The Peaceable Kingdom." It was painted over 150 years ago by Mr. Edward Hicks. In this painting, Mr. Hicks painted two stories about living together in peace.

See all the animals? They are the first peace story. That story is almost 3,000 years old, and it is from the Original Testament in our Bible. A prophet named Isaiah wrote about God's dream for all the earth. Isaiah imagined the animals who usually hunt each other for food living together in peace.

Let's see if we can find how Mr. Hicks painted Isaiah's words into our painting. (Is 11:6-8)
(Point to the animals in the painting as you speak. You may want to ask, "What do wolves usually do with lambs?", etc.)

The wolf will live with the lamb.
The leopard will lie down with the goat.
The calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.
The cow will feed with the bear;
their young will lie down together.
The lion will eat straw like the ox.
The baby will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the snake's nest.

Maybe Isaiah thought that if all these animals could live together as friends, then the whole world could live in peace. Isaiah believed this is what God wants for everyone.
(Pause and examine the animals for a few minutes. Point out: the ear of corn in the bear's mouth, the snake in the baby's hand, the eagle and the dove. Let the children ask questions about the animals.)

(Point to the Quakers and Native Americans.) Now, let's look at the second story Mr. Hicks put in his painting. It happened about 350 years ago, here in America. Do you see the people – some Englishmen and some Native Americans -- under the big tree near the river? We *know* who these people are. What Mr. Hicks painted really happened.

The Englishmen in the hats and coats are **Quakers** who sailed from England on a ship to the New World. *(in 1682.)* William Penn was their leader, and he wanted to start a place where everyone could live in peace and friendship.

Like Isaiah, William Penn believed that peace is what God wants for God's creation ... God's dream for us. William Penn was such a good leader that the state of Pennsylvania (*Penn's forest*) was named after him ... because that was the land he owned – an entire state!

It took William Penn and his Quaker friends almost 8 weeks to cross the ocean. One of the first things they did when they got to America was make a treaty with the Native Americans. *(Talk about 'what is a treaty?' – an agreement about how nations will get along that is written onto paper and signed.)*

The Quakers met with the Lenni Lenape people (Delaware tribe) to make a treaty – an agreement – to share the land and live together in peace. They met under a **huge elm tree** at a place called (Sak-i-mauch-heen Ing) Shackamaxon. In the Lenape language (Sak-i-mauch-heen Ing) "Shackamaxon" means "a place to make a chief." Sak-i-mauch-heen Ing was a special place where Native Americans came to have ceremonies to choose their chiefs.

The treaty between the Native Americans and Quakers promised that they would share the land (of Pennsylvania) be friends. And, the Quakers and the Lenni Lenape people never broke this treaty. They stayed friends even when other people were fighting.

So ... Mr. Hicks put two stories of peace in his painting – the story of the animals from the Bible and the story of the Quakers and Native Americans from our American history.

(Personal ending for Wichita Friends School: Here at WFS we are very connected with this painting and with the Sak-i-mauch-heen Ing treaty. In 2017 we planted two of this tree's great grandchildren here. We hope they will grow to be big trees with lots of shade someday ... just like the tree in Mr. Hicks' painting. (The Penn Treaty Elm became famous because of the treaty between the Quakers and the Lenni Lenape people. It was so famous that people took cuttings and seedlings from the tree to grow young child-treaty trees. The trees we planted were given to us by Haverford College in Pennsylvania and are great-great-grandchildren of the original tree where the Quakers and Lenni Lenape people met.)

Questions to notice and wonder about:

- Do you see the Lenni Lenape Native Americans?
- I wonder which one is their chief?
- Do you see William Penn and his Quaker friends?
- I wonder which one is William Penn?
- Do you see the treaty?
- One of the Native Americans is holding something long that looks like a peace pipe. I wonder if they smoked a peace pipe after they signed the treaty? (may have to explain peace pipe)
- I wonder why Mr. Hicks combined the Bible verse with the Quakers and Indians making their treaty?
- I wonder where you would like to be in this painting?
- I wonder what questions or ideas you have about this painting?