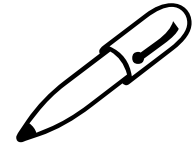


# Conflict Resolution Activity Sheet



Have you ever heard the saying, “You can’t judge a book by its cover”? Do you know what that means? It means that you can’t know people—what kind of character they have—just by the way they look on the outside. People dress differently, speak other languages, and have many different customs throughout the world—and even in our own country—but we share in the way we experience things like happiness, fear, hunger, pain, and other feelings. Animals, too, who may look entirely different from us—from a blue whale to a tiny calf—share the ability to experience feelings.

**Note to teachers**

Using PETA literature, acquaint students with animal rights issues. Encourage discussion in class, comparing older, widely held beliefs with a more modern understanding of our relationships with our fellow animals. Assign these ideas as essay or research topics or use them as guidelines for class discussions.

1. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas K. Gandhi, who led the nonviolent campaign to liberate India from British rule, was recently interviewed on the topic of conflict resolution. He said, “We have to discover where conflicts start, get to the root of them, and show how to avoid conflict.” Why do you think people sometimes hurt each other or animals? What are the reasons for our conflicts with each other? **Take a few moments to write your answers to these questions below:**

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2. Arun Gandhi said, “I found from my father’s writings and my father’s experiences that ideal relationships must be built on the four principles of respect, understanding, acceptance, and appreciation. We have to respect ourselves, each other, and our connection with all of creation.” How do you think these principles can help us in our relationships with our friends? **Take a few moments to write your answer below:**

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3. List some needs that your partner shares with nonhuman animals (such as the need for shelter, etc.).

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4. Now list some feelings that you share with animals (such as fear, the desire to be with friends and family, etc.). Think about animals familiar to you, such as a dog or cat in your family, as well as animals like elephants, chimpanzees, and cows.

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Share your lists with the class in a discussion and by passing around these sheets. People and animals are different in many ways, but if you think about it and explore our needs and feelings, you'll find that we are very much alike in many ways. Did you find that although you are a different person from your neighbor, you actually have some things in common? Do you see that you also share traits and feelings with other animals as well?

