# War!

*What is it good for?*

Activity One - Watch the video and answer the questions below:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQHUAJTZqF0




*According to this song:*

- What does war mean?
- What has it done?
- Who does it affect and how?
- What should take the place of war?

Activity Two - Read the text paying attention to your intonation and stress. Then discuss the question about war, in small groups. When you have come up with an answer you all agree on, present your answer to the class.

*From the war of Peloponnese to the current civil war in Syria, human beings have constantly been at war! Wars were once fought by armies and killed mainly soldiers, today civilians, women and children are the main victims of war. Whole populations are displaced, villages and towns disappear, generations are raised in hatred. All because of war. Civilizations rise and fall. Countries change names, history is re-written and frontiers are for ever shifting. All because of war. Some of the worst atrocities, barbaric and inhuman, are committed in the name of war, and again and again the perpetrators of war are 'brought to justice', forced to publicly repent and we say 'never again'. Caused in fact by anything from territorial jealousy to ancestral hatred, wars are openly fought in the name of religion or nationalism with their own laws of killing. Today they are often fought secretly from behind computer screens. Drones fly silently towards their unknowing targets to do their murderous 'duty'. Virtual 'pirates' plot disabling cyber attacks on entire networks. Terrorists plot in whispers around the globe, stocking up on weapons, planning to accelerate their one way ticket to paradise in a bloody illustration of their religious fervor. When will it end? JF*

## *One Question: Why does war exist?*

Activity Three - Agreeing and Disagreeing; Read through the expressions about agreeing and disagreeing. Then practice agreeing and disagreeing with the expressions below. One person will choose a statement and another will react with an expression and explanation. Then a third person can also give their opinion also using one of the expressions below.

| Expressions of Agreement | Expressions of Disagreement |
|---|---|
| • Of course.<br>• You're absolutely right.<br>• Yes, I agree.<br>• I think so too.<br>• That's a good point.<br>• Exactly.<br>• I don't think so either.<br>• So do I.<br>• I'd go along with that.<br>• That's true.<br>• Neither do I.<br>• I agree with you entirely.<br>• That's just what I was thinking.<br>• I couldn't agree more. | • I don't think so.<br>• I don't agree with you.<br>• However…<br>• That's not entirely true.<br>• On the contrary…<br>• I'm sorry to disagree with you, but…<br>• Yes, but don't you think…<br>• That's not the same thing at all.<br>• I'm afraid I have to disagree.<br>• I'm not sure about that.<br>• I must take issue with you on that.<br>• It's unjustifiable to say that... |

Quotations:

- Atwood "War is what happens when language fails"
- Voltaire "It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets."
- Camus "There are causes worth dying for, but none worth killing for."
- Plato "Only the dead have seen the end of war."
- Hemingway "Never think that war, no matter how necessary, nor how justified, is not a crime."
- Steinbeck "All war is a symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal."
- Lennon "War is over ... If you want it."
- Twain "God created war so that Americans would learn geography."
- Heinlein "You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once."

Statements:

- War can have positive consequences for mankind.
- War is necessary.
- The positives of war outweigh the negatives.Pride in your country is the only reason people go to war.
- Money is the main reason that wars are started.
- There would be fewer wars if more countries were ruled by women.
- People become soldiers because they want to kill.
- Killing can never be justified.
- All wars could be stopped if people learnt to communicate better.




Activity Four: Watch the first 3minutes and 30 seconds of this wonderful :-) video and answer the following questions. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbKsgaXQy2k

1.What does Lennon think about society?

2.What does he challenge someone to put on paper?

3.What does he say might happen to him for expressing his Opinions?

4.What does he want now?

5.What do the people have without knowing it?

6.Why don't people take power?

7.What do we have to make them aware of?

8.Where is the battle lost?

9.Why is he leaving a door open?

10.What is your opinion about what Lennon is saying in this interview?

Activity Five: Some sobering facts. Give your opinions on the following facts:

- In armed conflicts since 1945, 90 per cent of casualties have been civilians compared to 50 per cent in the Second World War and 10 per cent in the First.
- There are at least 250,000 child soldiers fighting in armed conflict.
- Britain's Manchester airport has had more than 1,000 security alerts a year caused by children taking toy guns on holiday.
- By the age of 16 an American child has seen, on average, 18,000 murders on television.

Activity Six: Class debate. Should war be illegal in all countries?

Activity Seven: With your partner - Describe the images from countries at war.
What do they represent in your opinion and what do they depict?
Write a headline to go with each one.













*Activity Eight* - Listen to the song and sing along! What is his Lennon's Christmas present to the world? http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESz9SOWUQzE