

Cordell Hull
Table of Contents

	Pages
1. Content Essay	2-3
2. 5 th Grade Activity	4-5
3. High School Activity	6-7
4. Primary Source: Nobel Speech	8-9

Cordell Hull

Essential Question: What was Cordell Hull's role in the founding of the United Nations?

Cordell Hull was born in a log cabin in 1871. He was the only son out of five boys who wanted an education. He attended a one room school and his father hired private tutors. Hull attended college and received a law degree in 1891 at the age of 20. He worked a short time as a lawyer and then served as a captain during the Spanish-American War. When he returned to Tennessee, he was appointed as a judge. In 1907, he ran and was elected to a seat in the U S House of Representatives. He remained in public service until 1944.

While in Congress, Cordell Hull strongly shared President Woodrow Wilson's idealistic vision of international diplomacy and was one of the first vigorous supporters of the League of Nations. Hull also supported lower tariffs. By supporting lower tariffs Hull sent a message to other countries he felt there should be open trade and nations should be able to work together in solving problems that separated them.

In 1932 Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president and very soon Cordell Hull was nominated and confirmed to be the U S Secretary of State. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and the United States entered into a state of war. After the outbreak of war, Cordell Hull proposed the formation of a new world organization to offer avenues for countries to solve their problems in a peaceful manner. He envisioned the United States having a major role in this international organization.

Hull formed an Advisory Council on Postwar Foreign Policy and asked Democrats and Republicans to contribute because he remembered Wilson's failure with the League of Nations. Hull worked very hard to keep all discussion on postwar policy nonpartisan. In 1943 the State Department drafted a document titled "Charter of the United Nations". Also in 1943 at the Moscow Conference of Foreign Ministers, Hull obtained a pledge from the Soviet Union to agree to help create a postwar world organization.

Cordell Hull gave the opening address at the Dumbarton Oaks conference in Washington, D.C. in 1944. Representatives from the United States, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union were in attendance. The first important steps in the movement to establish a postwar international organization were made at the conference.

Because of health problems Cordell Hull resigned his position as Secretary of State but was a member of the U S delegation at the San Francisco Conference on April 25, 1945. With 50 nations present the United Nations was officially organized and became an instrument for international cooperation and peace. Cordell Hull worked so vigorously and championed the cause of the United Nations with such effort that he was honored with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952. On July 23, 1955 Cordell Hull, Father of the United Nations, died after a lifetime of service to his country and mankind.

Sources: “Biographies of the Secretaries of State: Cordell Hull.” *Office of the Historian*. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 1 Aug. 2014.
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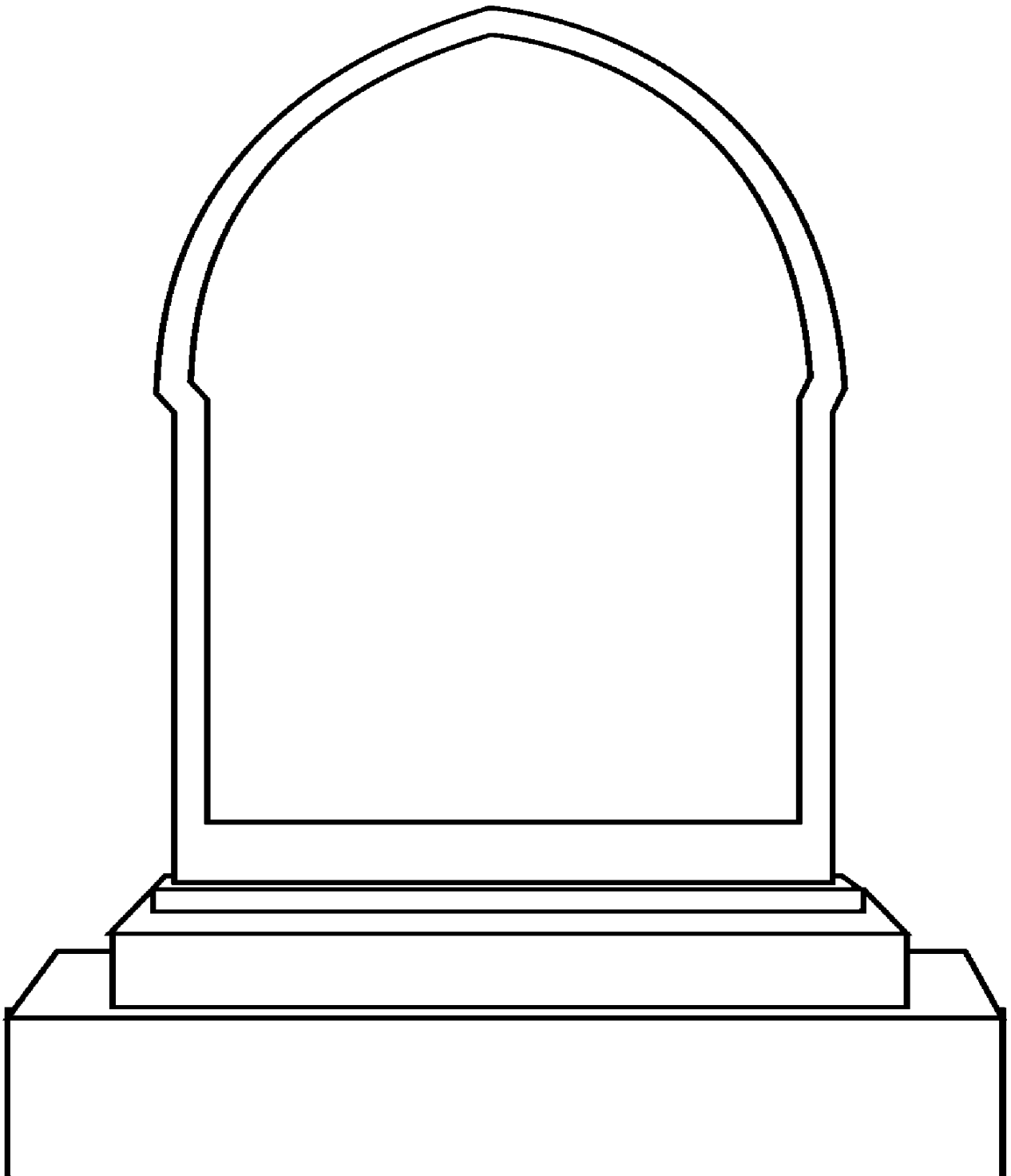
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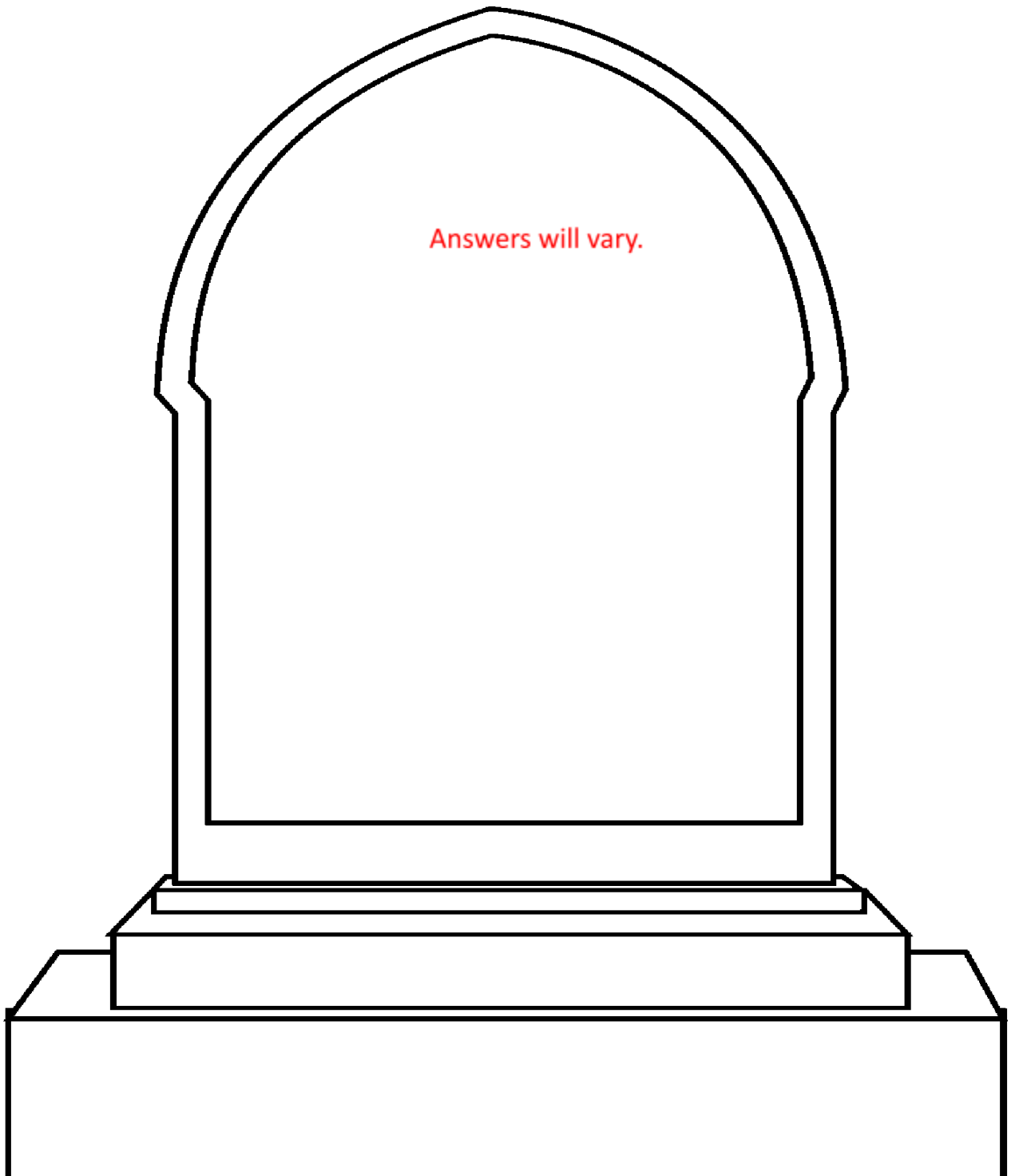
Summarize the text to write an epitaph for Cordell Hull.

An epitaph is a brief statement about the deceased person, sometimes in the form of a poem



Cordell Hull

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Cordell Hull

Summarize the text to write an obituary for Cordell Hull.

Answers will vary, but should include Hull's role in FDR's government and the creation of the United Nations.

Cordell Hull's Nobel Prize Acceptance Speech

President Franklin D. Roosevelt nominated Cordell Hull to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1945. Hull, who had been forced to resign as Secretary of State due to poor health, was unable to attend the ceremony. The following speech was written by Hull and read by Mr. Lithgow Osborne, ambassador of the United States to Norway.

As I have already informed you, the present state of my health renders impossible my presence at Oslo on this most memorable occasion. Nothing would have given me greater pleasure and satisfaction. Please let me assure you, however, that the keen disappointment and regret which I feel in this regard serve only to enhance my profound appreciation of the great honor which you have done me; and my sincere gratitude for your generous action.

The Nobel Peace Prize has come to occupy a very special place in the thoughts - and emotions of forward-looking humanity. It has become a supreme mark of distinction in the field of effort directed toward the attainment of man's highest aspiration - the establishment of enduring peace based on justice and fair-dealing for all. I am proud to join the company of those whom you have thus far so honored. The problem of peace is uppermost today in the hearts and minds of all of us, as the world emerges from the staggering ordeal of the most widespread and cruel war of all the ages. That war has brought with it a truly incredible development of means of destruction and a terrifying prospect of rapid and almost limitless development in that direction. Triumphant science and technology are only at the threshold of man's command over sources of energy so stupendous that, if used for military purposes, they can wipe out our entire civilization. Under the ominous shadow which the second World War and its attendant circumstances have cast on the world, peace has become as essential to civilized existence as the air we breathe is to life itself. There is no greater responsibility resting upon peoples and governments everywhere than to make sure that enduring peace will this time - at long last - be established and maintained.

Fortunately, the war has brought with it not alone a stark realization of what another war would mean to the world, but as well the creation of an international agency through which the nations of the world can, if they so desire, make peace a living reality. Within a few weeks the organization for the maintenance of international peace and security, established by the San Francisco Charter, will be formally launched through the convocation of the first General Assembly of the United Nations. I fully realize that the new organization is a human rather than a perfect instrumentality for the attainment of its great objective. As time goes on it will, I am sure, be improved. The Charter is sufficiently flexible to provide for growth and development, in the light of experience and performance, but I am firmly convinced that with all its imperfections the United Nations Organization offers the peace-loving nations of the world, how, a fully workable mechanism which will give them peace, if they want peace.

To be sure, no piece of social machinery, however well constructed, can be effective unless there is back of it a will and a determination to make it work. The crucial test for men and for nations today is whether or not they have suffered enough, and have learned enough, to put aside suspicion, prejudice and short-run and narrowly conceived interests and to unite in furtherance of their greatest common interest. That overwhelming and overshadowing common interest is enduring peace, within the frame-work of which man's newly found powers of science and technology can be used to raise to undreamed of heights the well-being of humanity. Alfred Nobel, were he alive today, would, I am sure, have joined with me in unshakeable faith that this crucial test will be met; that the searing lessons of this latest war and the promise of the United Nations Organization will be the cornerstones of a new edifice of enduring peace and the guideposts of a new era of human progress.

From *Les Prix Nobel en 1945*, Editor Arne Holmberg, [Nobel Foundation], Stockholm, 1946

Source: Hull, Cordell "Acceptance Speech, 1945." *Nobelprize.org*, The Nobel Foundation. 1945. Web. 21 July 2014.

<http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/1945/hull-acceptance.html>