

# The Nobel Peace Prize

## A Prize for Peace

The Nobel Peace Prize is a special prize given each year to a person or group that has made a major contribution to world peace. The prize is named after Alfred Nobel, a scientist who lived in the 19th century.



## The Man Behind the Prize

Alfred Nobel was born on October 21, 1833 in Sweden. Like his father, he was an inventor. He became rich and famous by inventing dynamite, an explosive used in building roads, railways and canals. He was saddened, however, to realize his invention could be used to make weapons for war.

He therefore decided to use the money he had earned from dynamite to give five international awards each year. Four awards were for people who had contributed to the fields of *chemistry*, *physics*, *medicine* and *literature*. The fifth, the Nobel Peace Prize, was for the person who had most advanced the cause of world *peace*. Later, in 1969, a Nobel Prize for *economics* was established.

## Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize

Alfred Nobel died in 1896. After his death, the Nobel Foundation was set up to give out his awards. The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1901.

Each year, the names of all the Nobel Prize winners are announced in October. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded on December 10th - the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. The winner is decided by a special committee of five people from Norway. People from around the world are invited to nominate candidates who they think should be awarded the prize.

The Nobel Peace Prize can be given to either a person or an organization. It can also be shared by several people. The same person can even win twice. The prize itself consists of a gold medal, a diploma and a cash award of \$1,000,000 (one million dollars).

## Alfred Nobel's Legacy

Today, Alfred Nobel is famous for the six annual prizes that are given in his name. Although he invented a terrible explosive which is used in war, he hoped that his peace prize would help to promote a more peaceful world. Now, each year, people around the globe look forward to see who will be chosen to receive this famous peace prize.

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What's the Nobel Peace Prize?
2. Who is it named after?
3. When did Alfred Nobel live?
4. When and where was he born?
5. What kind of work did his father do?
6. How did Nobel become rich and famous?
7. Why was he saddened?
8. What did Nobel do with his money?
9. How many Nobel Prizes are there?
10. What are they?

11. When did Alfred Nobel die?
12. When was the first Peace Prize awarded?
13. When are the Nobel Prizes announced?
14. Why is the Nobel Peace Prize awarded on December 10<sup>th</sup>?
15. Who chooses the peace prize winners?
16. Who can be given the Peace Prize?
17. What does the prize consist of?
18. What is Alfred Nobel famous for today?
19. What did he hope?
20. What do people look forward to?