

## Emily Green Balch 1946

*A peaceful world will open up great reservoirs in human nature.*

Emily Balch shared the 1946 Nobel Peace Prize with John Mott. She always believed people could live in peace.



Emily Balch was born in Boston in 1867. She was a college graduate. Women rarely went to college in the 1800's. Then she went to the Sorbonne in Paris. This was a very famous university. She studied how to rid the world of poverty. In Boston, she started a settlement house. This was a place for poor families to get help.

Then she joined the staff of Wellesley College. It was located in Massachusetts. She became a professor of economics and sociology. Balch was a teacher and writer.

She participated in many **social justice movements**. She spoke out for many important issues. She believed in women's rights and racial equality. She

- **She was a professor of sociology and economics**
- **She joined the International League for Peace and Freedom**
- **She fought for humane treatment of prisoners of war**

wanted fair treatment of immigrants. She worked for world peace.

World War I was a turning point for Balch. She realized that she must work for peace. She started world peace organizations.

She was a **pacifist** during the years of the First World War. She strongly believed in **mediation** instead of battle. Her good friend was Jane Addams. They traveled to many countries. They helped people see the way to peace.

She met with President Woodrow Wilson to stop the war. Her meeting was unsuccessful. She lost her teaching job because she was gone so much. She

continued to work for peace all of her life. She didn't like how countries were treated who lost the war. She thought the Treaty of Versailles was too harsh.

Between the two world wars, Ms. Balch spoke out. She wanted peace and justice for all people. She did projects for the League of Nations. She said that nations should not use weapons against each other. She believed the United States needed to learn about other countries. She also wanted to help **refugees** from war.

She was horrified by the actions of the Nazis. The Nazis in Germany were murdering Jews. She encouraged the United States to enter World War Two.

She also helped the Japanese Americans in America. The government didn't trust them. They were sent to **concentration camps**. They had done nothing wrong. She helped re-locate them after the war. Ms. Belch was in her seventies after the war. She continued her important peace work.

*She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1946. She was honored for all her efforts for peace. She believed we needed to take care of each other. She helped start the United Nations.*

## **Suggested Classroom Activities**

### **Introduction/Warm-Up:**

Discuss ways people work for peace today. Bring in newspaper articles. Emily Balch's work is still going on.

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. In what ways did her life and her work help the cause of international peace? What obstacles did she face?
2. Why did she win the Nobel Peace Prize?
3. What do all Emily's causes have in common?
4. Balch taught people to understand other countries. Why is this so important?
5. Do you agree with her hope for the future?
6. What peace activities would Emily Balch be involved in today? Explain your answer.

### **Vocabulary:**

1. **Social justice movement**
2. **Pacifist**
3. **Mediation**
4. **Concentration camp**
5. **Refugees**

### **Activities:**

1. Students are to work in pairs for this activity. Pretend you are Emily Balch. Have someone pretend to be a television reporter. The reporter will ask five questions about your life.
2. Talk about how Emily Balch got more rights for women. What is different for women today? Make a poster in pairs that uses magazine pictures to show rights that women have today. Share with the class.

3. Talk to parents and read newspaper articles about refugees. Also read articles about other injustice around the world. Bring stories to share. Make a display in class of these articles. Take your display to another class and explain. Discuss how Emily would have responded to these crises.

## Read Together



Children of the Relocation Camps by Catherine A.

Welch



Remembering Manama: Life in a Japanese Relocation Camp by Michael L. Cooper



Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

### **Technology Option:**

Go to website [http://nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/lists/women.html](http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/lists/women.html)

How many women have won the Nobel Peace Prize? How many of those women are Americans? Is there something special that contributes to such a high percentage of American women who have won the award? Are the percentages of American women who have won the award as high in other Nobel Prize categories? How do you explain the difference, if there is one?

### **Resources:**

Randall, Mercedes M. *Improper Bostonian: Emily Greene Balch*. New York, 1964. Twain Publishers, Inc.

[www.discoverthenetwork.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=1592](http://www.discoverthenetwork.org/individualProfile.asp?indid=1592)

[www.harvardsquarelibrary.org.unitarians/balch.html](http://www.harvardsquarelibrary.org/unitarians/balch.html)

[www.irwinabrams.com/articles/balch.html](http://www.irwinabrams.com/articles/balch.html)

[www.nobelprize.org](http://www.nobelprize.org)

[www.wilpf.org](http://www.wilpf.org)