THE RAINBOW PEOPLE

From a leaflet called 'I have a dream' available from Christian Aid

In the beginning the world was very still and quiet. The ground seemed to be covered with dull coloured rocks and stones. But if you took a closer look you could see that they were not stones, but were tiny people who were not moving at all.

One day a wind blew over the land. It warmed the people and filled them with life and with love. They began to move ... to look at each other ... to touch each other ... to speak to each other ... to care about each other.

As they explored their world they found coloured ribbons lying on the ground. They were excited and ran about collecting them up.

Some chose red, some blue, some green, some yellow. They enjoyed tying the ribbons round each other and laughing at the bright colours.

Suddenly another wind blew. This time it made them shiver with cold. They looked at each other, realised they looked different and stopped trusting each other.

The reds gathered together and ran into a corner.

The blues gathered together and ran into a corner.

The greens gathered together and ran into a corner.

The yellows gathered together and ran into a corner.

They forgot that they had been friends and had cared for each other. The other colours just seemed different and strange. They built walls to separate themselves and keep the others out. (Use boxes or mime.)

But they found that:

The reds had water but no food. (Mime feeling hungry)

The blues had food but no water. (Mime feeling thirsty)

The greens had twigs to make fire but no shelter (Mime looking for shelter)
The **yellows** had shelter but nothing to keep them warm. (Mime shivering with cold).

Suddenly a stranger appeared and stood in the centre of the land. He looked at the people and the walls separating them in amazement and said loudly, "**Come on out everybody. What are you afraid of? Let’s talk to each other!**"

The people peeped out at him and slowly some came out of their corners into the centre.

The stranger said, "**Now just tell one another what you have got to give, and what you need to be given.**"

The **reds** said, "**We have plenty of water to give but we need food.**"

The **blues** said, "**We have plenty of food to give but we need water.**"

The **greens** said, "**We have plenty of wood for fire but we need shelter.**"

The **yellows** said, "**We have plenty of shelter but we need warmth.**"

The stranger said, "**Why don't you put together what you have and share it? Then you can all have enough to eat and drink, keep warm and have shelter.**"

They talked and the feeling of love returned.

They remembered that they had been friends.

They knocked down the walls and welcomed each other as old friends.

When they realised that the colours had divided them they wanted to throw them away.

But they knew that they would miss the richness of the bright colours. So instead they mixed the colours to make a beautiful rainbow ribbon.

They called themselves the Rainbow People. The rainbow ribbon became their symbol of peace.