

Ethiopia leader Abiy Ahmed wins Nobel Peace Prize

14th October, 2019



Image: Public Domain via Wikipedia.org

The Prime Minister of Ethiopia Abiy Ahmed has won the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel committee said the 43-year-old leader won the prestigious accolade because of "his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation, and in particular, for his decisive initiative to

resolve the border conflict with neighboring Eritrea". Since Mr Ahmed became Ethiopian Prime Minister in April 2018, he has focused his efforts on repairing relations with Eritrea. In addition, he played a pivotal role in mediating in a political crisis between Sudan and South Sudan. The UN Secretary-General said Mr Ahmed, "has set a wonderful example for others in and beyond Africa looking to overcome resistance from the past and put people first".

Mr Ahmed is being viewed as a transformative leader bringing hope to his region. In June 2018, he agreed to fully implement a peace treaty signed with Eritrea in 2000, which brought peace between the two countries after two decades of conflict. Ethiopia and Eritrea are two of the world's poorest countries but they spent hundreds of millions of dollars on the war. The conflict killed tens of thousands of people and further impoverished many more. The UN said Mr Ahmed, "has set a wonderful example for others in and beyond Africa looking to overcome resistance from the past and put people first." It added: "His vision helped Ethiopia and Eritrea achieve a historic reconciliation".

(Apologies for repeated quote at end of paragraph two.)

Sources: *sky.com* / *theeastafrikan.co.ke* / *news.un.org*

Writing

People of the world should decide who wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

prime minister / Ethiopia / committee / prestigious / Nobel Peace Prize / crisis / Africa / region / peace treaty / conflict / impoverished / resistance / vision / the past / historic

True / False

- a) The Prime Minister of Ethiopia is in his forties. T / F
- b) Abiy Ahmed won the prize for resolving a border dispute. T / F
- c) Abiy Ahmed only became Prime Minister earlier this year. T / F
- d) The UN said Abiy Ahmed was putting people first. T / F
- e) The article said Mr Ahmed is looked at as being a transparent leader. T / F
- f) Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a peace treaty in June 2018. T / F
- g) The article said the Ethiopia-Eritrea conflict killed millions. T / F
- h) The United Nations described Mr Ahmed as being a visionary. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. committee | a. reuniting |
| 2. achieve | b. opposition to |
| 3. resolve | c. looked at |
| 4. overcome | d. panel |
| 5. resistance | e. poor |
| 6. viewed | f. attain |
| 7. implement | g. further away |
| 8. impoverished | h. defeat |
| 9. beyond | i. put into action |
| 10. reconciliation | j. settle |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Abiy Ahmed?
- b) What do you think of the Nobel Peace Prize?
- c) Who do you think should have won the Nobel Peace Prize.
- d) Do you think Donald Trump should win the prize one day?
- e) How great is it that Ethiopia and Eritrea are at peace?
- f) What do you know about Ethiopia?
- g) What should Abiy Ahmed do from now?
- h) What kind of example has Abiy Ahmed set for others?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. won the prestigious | a. first |
| 2. his decisive initiative to resolve the | b. millions of dollars |
| 3. he played a pivotal | c. leader |
| 4. set a wonderful example | d. of conflict |
| 5. put people | e. accolade |
| 6. viewed as a transformative | f. role |
| 7. fully implement a | g. for others |
| 8. after two decades | h. helped Ethiopia |
| 9. hundreds of | i. peace treaty |
| 10. His vision | j. border conflict |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Eritrea?
- What is a 'transformative leader'?
- Do you think Greta Thunberg should win the prize one day?
- Which other areas of the world need a 'transformative leader'?
- When will we stop fighting wars?
- What do you think of the idea of a global peace prize?
- What questions would you like to ask Abiy Ahmed?

Spelling

- The Nobel ctmiomeet
- won the prestigious aecldaoc
- his decisive vtaiieniti to resolve the border conflict
- he played a patolvi role
- ieadnigtm in a political crisis
- overcome cisnrtaees
- viewed as a fatsiroetamnvr leader
- fully peelmtmin a peace treaty
- after two sdceead of conflict
- further rpsiihmevdoe many more
- His isionv helped Ethiopia
- achieve a historic iannrtoicloeci

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. f	3. j	4. h	5. b
6. c	7. i	8. e	9. g	10. a

Role Play

Role A – Literature

You think a prize in literature is the best prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prizes. Also, tell the others which is the least relevant of these (and why): physics, economics or music.

Role B – Physics

You think a prize in physics is the best prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prizes. Also, tell the others which is the least relevant of these (and why): literature, economics or music.

Role C – Economics

You think a prize in economics is the best prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prizes. Also, tell the others which is the least relevant of these (and why): physics, literature or music.

Role D – Music

You think a prize in music is the best prize. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their prizes. Also, tell the others which is the least relevant of these (and why): physics, economics or literature.

Speaking – Nobel Prizes

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important real and imaginary Nobel Prize at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| • Literature | • Medicine |
| • Peace | • Economic Sciences |
| • Physics | • Sport |
| • Chemistry | • Music |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.