

Grade: 2

Lesson Number: 16

Unit Name: Ten Nānaks

Course: Virṣā

Title: "Gurū Harirāi"

Standards

Standard 5: Ten Nānaks

- Students identify the 10 Gurūs and two Choṭe Sāhibzāde.
 - *Students will be able to name all 10 Gurūs and two Choṭe Sāhibzāde. They will be able to identify a few key characteristics of each Gurū. The stories about the two Sāhibzāde should introduce concepts from Gurbani, including pain (dukh), joy (sukh), as well as martyrdom (shahīdī).*

Objectives

1. Children will learn about Gurū Harirāi with concentration on his love for animals and maintenance of Sikh Armies.

Prerequisites

- None.

Materials

- Animal books and videos
- Books on saving the rainforest (The Great Kapok Tree)
- Warrior Saints
- Sign saying: Gurū Harirāi / ਗੁਰੂ ਹਰਿਰਾਇ

Advanced Preparation

- Teacher should be familiar with the life story of Gurū Harirāi. (resources below)
- Have name of the Gurū written in both English and Gurmukhī to put up as a sign.

Engagement (15-20 minutes)

- Do a quick review of all the Gurūs you have covered thus far.
- After discussing Gurū Hargobind, ask if anyone knows who the seventh Gurū was. If they know it, well and good. If they do not, then give them the information.
- Tell children that Gurū Harirāi was the grandson of Gurū Hargobind.
- Gurū Hargobind had advised Gurū Harirāi to keep an army, so he had 2200 soldiers.
- Gurū Harirāi was also known to be a very gentle person and loved nature just like Gurū Nānak. You can tell them the story of his robe rubbing against the flower and he being filled with sorrow to have hurt a flower.
- Continue by telling the children that Gurū Harirāi also was very fond of animals. He made special hospitals for animals.
- He also made a zoo with all species of animals and birds and gave them his utmost love. He wanted people to visit the zoo and care for the animals.

Exploration (35 minutes)

- Tell children that animals live all over the world and they each have a particular habitat (a place that is suitable for their living and their needs).
- Tell them that because humans want certain things from those areas, they end up destroying the habitats for the animals.
- Read them the book The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. (quick summary: Man comes to the rainforest to cut down trees. As he takes a nap, animals whisper in his ear the importance of the Kapok tree to them and to the rainforest.)
- Ask children different things that they would do to help save habitats for animals.
- Have them then think about the importance of a routine of a soldier. What does he need to do to keep his body strong for battle? Then ask them what they might do to keep their body strong.

Explanation/Extension (5-10 minutes)

- Have children spend the rest of the time looking at the different books. Walk through the room to have conversations with them.

Evaluation (On-going)

- During the review pay special attention to children who are able to verbalize the story about each Gurū and make sure that there are enough children who are speaking.
- If only a few kids are speaking, you will have to call on the quieter ones to gauge their understanding and learning.

Teacher Resources

Books

Singh Teja and Ganda Singh. A Short History of the Sikhs. Patiala: Punjab University, Patiala, 1994. pp 44-47

Singh, Puran. The Book of The Ten Masters. Amritsar: Singh Bros., August 2002. pp 95-96

Cherry, Lynee. The Great Kapok Tree. Harcourt Brace Co.

Gurū Harirai (1630-1661)

Gurū Harirai was the grandson of Gurū Hargobind . He was born at Kīratpur (ਕੀਰਤਪੁਰ). He was very gentle and kind-hearted and opened a hospital where medicines and treatment was given free. He spread the message of the previous Gurūs. He is particularly known for love towards animals. He made special hospitals for animals and also made a zoo of all species of animals and birds and gave them his utmost love. He propagated the use of herbal medicine as well.

One day, as a child, while passing through a garden, his loose flowing robes damaged some flowers and scattered their petals on the ground. This sight affected his tender heart and brought tears to his eyes. After that, he always walked with his robes tucked up, and resolved never to harm anything in the world. When he grew up, he carried the same spirit with him. He used Bābā Farīd's (ਬਾਬਾ ਫਰੀਦ) quotation frequently:

"All men's hearts are jewels; to distress them is not at all good;
If thou desire the Beloved, distress no one's heart."

Gurū Harirai was most magnanimous. His food was very simple, he did not desire dainty dishes. Whatever valuable offerings were made to him, he used to spend on his guests. On the advice of his grandfather, Gurū Hargobind, he kept twenty-two hundred mounted soldiers. In the afternoon he used to go hunting. The Gurū took some of the animals he had obtained from the chase, freed them and protected them in a zoological garden, which he had made for the recreation of his followers. In the evening the Gurū used to hold his court, listen to hymns sung by his choir, and then give divine instructions.

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