

Grade: Kindergarten

Lesson Number: 6

Unit Name: Sikh Symbols

Course: Virṣā

Title: "Nishān Sāhib Book"

Standards

Standard 6: Understanding Sikh Symbols

- Students identify and describe Sikh symbols. (e.g. Nishān Sāhib, Khandā, Ik Oaṅkār, 5 Kakārs, hawk, silver arrow, Gurū Nānak as “founder of the faith,” and the Mūl Mantr)

Objectives

1. Students will be able to understand the significance of the Nishān Sāhib by creating a mini-book.

Prerequisites

- This lesson plan is a part of a series focusing on Sikh Symbols.

Materials

- Access to a Nishān Sāhib or at least a picture of it. An actual one would be ideal for this class. If your class is at a gurdwārā, you can walk the children to the Nishān Sāhib
- Explanation of what the Nishān Sāhib is and its significance
- Chart paper/ sentence strips
- Book on Nishān Sāhib (student-made)
- Crayons, color pencils or markers
- Pencils

Advanced Preparation

- Teacher should read the explanation of the significance of the Nishān Sāhib and make sure they understand it in order to answer the questions of the students.
- Make copies of the Nishān Sāhib book.
- It will also be helpful to have a Khandā mobile already made.
- Sometimes it's helpful to have the books put together (e.g. folded and stapled) ahead of time.

Engagement (20 minutes)

- Take the class to the Nishān Sāhib and have them sit around it. Let them have a good look at it.
- Ask students:
 - What is this called?
 - Have you ever seen this anywhere else before? Where?
 - Why do you think we have Nishān Sāhib?
 - Read the explanation or sākhi about the Khandā

- As you read the explanation – make sure you point out the different parts of the Khandā.
- After reading the explanation, Ask students the following questions:
 - What is this called?
 - Tell me about one part you remember?
 - (Point to the Khandā) What is this called?
 - What can you tell me about the Khandā?

Exploration (30 minutes)

- Have students come up with sentences about the Nishān Sāhib. (e.g. “The Nishān Sāhib is shaped like a triangle.”)
- As students are coming up with their sentences, write them on sentence strips.
- Re-read the sentences that students have come up with.
- Hand out the “Nishān Sāhib Book”
- Have students write their name on the front page.
- As a class, read the entire book.
- On the last page, allow students to copy the one or two sentences from the sentences on the chart or on the sentences strips.
- Allow time for students to draw the pictures in their book and reread it with a partner.

Explanation/Extension (10 minutes)

- Allow students to present their books. If possible, try to read the books with students in small groups or preferably individually.

Evaluation (On-going)

- For homework, have students read their Nishān Sāhib book to their parents.
- During the next class, see how much they remember about the Nishān Sāhib.

Teacher Resources

Note: This is for the teacher.



The Sikh flag is a saffron-colored triangular-shaped cloth, usually reinforced in the middle with Sikh insignia in blue. It is usually mounted on a long steel pole (which is also covered with saffron-colored cloth) headed with a Khandā (ਖੰਡਾ). The Sikh flag is often seen near the entrance of a gurdwārā (ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ), standing firmly on the platform, overlooking the whole building. Sikhs show great respect to their flag as it is, indeed, the symbol of the freedom of the Khālsā (ਖਾਲਸਾ). Nishān Sāhib (ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ) is a triangular shaped Kesrī (ਕੇਸਰੀ), orange, or blue, colored cloth hoisted on a pole below a steel Khandā. The Nishān Sāhib is hoisted at all gurdwārās as a statement of Sikh presence.

It is said words "Vāhigurū Jī Kī Fatih" (ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ ਜੀ ਕੀ ਫਤਹ) in Gurmukhī (ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ) script (Victory of God) were inscribed on the Nishān Sāhib of Gurū Gobind Singh. During Māharājā Ranjīt Singh's times, the words "Akāl Sahāi" (ਅਕਾਲ ਸਹਾਇ) in Gurmukhī were inscribed on the Nishān Sāhib. During the Sikh Misl period, the "Nishān Vāliā Misl" (ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਵਾਲੀਆ ਮਿਸਲ) used to provide Sikhs for carrying the Nishān Sāhib to all the Misls during battles.

Once, a Nishān Sāhib bearer named Bhāi Ālam (ਭਾਈ ਆਲਮ) Singh fell in the hands of Mughal enemy forces during a battle. He was told to let go of the flag or else his hand would be chopped off. Bhāi Ālam Singh replied that if they chopped his hand off, he would keep holding the flag with his feet. Then he was told that his feet would also be cut off. Bhāi Ālam Singh replied that in such eventuality he would hold it with his mouth. He was then asked what he would do if they proceeded to cut off his head. Bhāi Ālam Singh replied with confidence, "The Gurū whose flag I am carrying will take care of it." This illustrates the esteem in which Sikhs hold their Nishān Sāhib.

Adapted from: <http://allaboutsikhs.com/basics/sikhsymbols02.htm>

	<div data-bbox="889 331 1339 621" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <u>Nishān Sāhib</u> <u>Activity Book</u> </div> <div data-bbox="889 714 1339 787" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Name: _____ </div>
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<div data-bbox="284 1537 812 1633" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> This is a Nishān Sāhib. </div>	<div data-bbox="857 1537 1385 1633" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> It is a symbol of Freedom for the <u>Khālsā</u>. </div>
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<p>The Nishān Sāhib has a Khandā on it.</p>	<p>The Nishān Sāhib is orange.</p>
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<p>The Nishān Sāhib is very tall.</p>	
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The Sikh Flag - Nishān Sāhib



The Sikh flag is a saffron-colored triangular-shaped cloth, usually reinforced in the middle with Sikh insignia in blue. It is usually mounted on a long steel pole (which is also covered with saffron-colored cloth) headed with a Khandā (ਖੰਡਾ). The Sikh flag is often seen near the entrance of a gurdwārā (ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ), standing firmly on the platform, overlooking the whole building. Sikhs show great respect to their flag as it is, indeed, the symbol of the freedom of the Khālsā (ਖਾਲਸਾ). Nishān Sāhib (ਨਿਸ਼ਾਨ ਸਾਹਿਬ) is a triangular shaped Kesrī (ਕੇਸਰੀ), orange, or blue, colored cloth with or inscribed on it in the middle hoisted on a pole below a steel Khandā. The Nishān Sāhib is hoisted at all gurdwārās as a statement of Sikh presence.

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	<div><u>Nishān Sāhib</u></div> <div><u>Activity Book</u></div>
	Name: _____

This is a Nishān Sāhib.	It is a symbol of Freedom for the <u>Khālsā</u> .

<p>The Nishān Sāhib has a Khanḍā on it.</p>	<p>The Nishān Sāhib is orange.</p>

<p>The Nishān Sāhib is very tall.</p>	