

**Grade: 1**

**Lesson number: 16**

**Unit Name: Celebrations**

**Course: Virṣā**

**Title: "Celebrating Māi Bhāgo**

### **Standards**

#### **Standard 6: Important Dates**

- Students identify and describe the events or people celebrated during Sikh holidays and why we celebrate them. (e.g. Vaisākhī, Divālī, Holā Mohallā, Prakāsh Utsav Guru Gobind Singh, Shahīdī Chote Sāhibzāde, Gurgadī Gurū Granth Sāhib, Māi Bhāgo and Sikh Bībān)

### **Objectives**

1. Children learn the story of Māi Bhāgo.

### **Prerequisites**

- None.

### **Materials**

- Pictures of Māi Bhāgo
- Book, : Mai Bhago, The Brave Soldier by Jasprit Kaur (DTF Books)
  - ISBN- 1901363465
  - Author- Jasprit Kaur
  - Year Published- 2004
- Attached are three articles for teacher's reference on Māi Bhāgo
- Chart paper

### **Advanced Preparation**

- Teacher should be familiar with story of Māi Bhāgo and events that led to her rise.
- Read the book in advance so that you are able to clarify certain areas for the children when need be.

### **Engagement (20-25 minutes)**

- Ask children who Mātā Bhāg Kaur was. Some of them might remember her. some might not know her from that name.
- Pick up her picture and show it to the kids and ask them if they recognize her. If most of them say Māi Bhāgo, tell them that Bhāg Kaur was her name and she has come to be known as Māi Bhāgo.
- Ask them if they know her story. Help them out as they begin to tell you.
- Depending on your class. they may know a lot or very little.

### **Exploration (20-25 minutes)**

- Read the book Mai Bhago, The Brave Soldier to the children.
- As you read the book, stop at selected portions and ask questions such as:
  - What would you do if you were in this kind of a situation?

- Why did Māī Bhāgo decide to go back to the fight?
- Do you think Māī Bhāgo made the right decision?
- Do you think the Sikhs made the right decision by leaving Gurū Gobind Singh?

**Explanation/Extension (5-10 minutes)**

- Ask children if they have heard stories about other women heroes. They may have heard of different women in the school such as Mu Lan, Harriet Tubman, Soujourner Truth, Rosa Parks, and Eleanor Roosevelt...
- Ask them if they would talk about Māī Bhāgo too.
- Ask children how they would celebrate Māī Bhāgo's life and make a list on chart paper.

**Evaluation (On-going)**

- Ask children to tell their school friends the story of Māī Bhāgo.

## **Teacher Resources**

### **Great Sikh Women Māi Bhāgo – Bhāg Kaur**

Māi Bhāgo (ਮਾਈ ਭਾਗੋ) was a descendant of Phero Shāh, the younger brother of Bhāi Laungā (ਲੌਂਗਾ) who converted to Sikhī during the life of Gurū Arjan. Born in her ancestral village of Jhabbal in present-day Amritsar district of the Pañjāb, she was married to Nidhān Singh of Paṭṭī (ਪੱਟੀ). Overall, she was a staunch Sikh by birth and upbringing.



Her story begins in a moment where Mughals and hilnchiefs had surrounded Anandpur Sāhib and were demanding it be evacuated. The Mughals promised that anyone who renounced their allegiance as Sikhs of Gurū Gobind Singh would be left untouched. A group of 40 Sikhs, led by Mahārī (ਮਹਾਰੀ) Singh, decided to take that route and told Gurū Gobind Singh that they no longer belonged to him.

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Gurū Gobind Singh accepted their decision and asked them to record this renunciation in a document. After the forty Sikhs signed this document, they left Gurū Gobind Singh and returned to their homes. Upon their return, Māi Bhāgo learned of their abandonment of Gurū Gobind Singh and was distressed to hear that some of the Sikhs of her neighborhood had deserted their Gurū. So Māi Bhāgo took action and began an inspirational movement. She rallied the deserters of the Gurū, and together, they traveled to reunite with their leader.

Meanwhile, Gurū Gobind Singh had to evacuate the fort of Anandpur, and his children were lost in the confusion. The two youngest sons, Zorāvar Singh and Fatih Singh, went along with their grandmother (mother of Gurū Gobind Singh). Meanwhile, the elder two, Ajīt Singh and Jhujhār Singh, were with their father. At the battle of Camkaur (ਚਮਕੌਰ) Gurū's elder sons attained martyrdom, and the Gurū was saved by five Sikhs and he evacuated Camkaur. While traveling in the Mālṡā (ਮਾਲਵਾ) region he was hotly pursued by Mughal forces of Aurāngzeb (ਔਰੰਗਜ਼ੇਬ).

Traveling day and night in the Jungles of Mālṡā region, imperial Mughal forces were in constant pursuit of the Gurū. Gurū Gobind Singh reached a village of Khidrāṇā (ਖਿਦਰਾਣਾ), when Māi Bhāgo and the mep knowp as Cālī Mukte (ਚਾਲੀ ਮੁਕਤੇ), that she was leading stopped near the pool of Khidrāṇā where an imperial army in pursuit of Gurū Gobind Singh was about to

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about to overtake him. They challenged the pursuing host and fought. Now this battleground is known as Muktsar (ਮੁਕਤਸਰ) Sāhib.



Her hut in Jinvārā (ਜਿਨਵਾਰਾ) has now been converted into Gurduārā Tap Asthān Māi Bhāgo. At Nanded, too, a hall within the compound of Takht Sackhand (ਸਚਖੰਡ) is devoted to her, and Srī Hazūr Sāhib marking the site of her residence is known as Buṅgā (ਬੁੰਗਾ) Māi Bhāgo.

Images courtesy of: [www.sikh-history.com](http://www.sikh-history.com)

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