

Year 1&2 Key Stage 1



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

Year 2 units of work - Leaders and teachers - Guru Nanak





Lesson 5 Guru Nanak

Learning objectives

- To learn that a guru is a holy man and spiritual teacher
- To learn that Guru Nanak was the first Sikh guru

Success criteria

- To retell the story of Guru Nanak

Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2

Resources

- Old party/event invitations (people could bring some from home)
- Card
- Felt-tip pens
- **Resource sheet 2:** *Guru Nanak*
- **CD Image Gallery, page 3:** *At the gurdwara*

Vocabulary

Equal, excitement, God, gurdwara, guru, Guru Nanak, invitation, langar, religion, respect, role model, sharing, Sikh, welcome

Key questions ?

Who was Guru Nanak?

What is a langar?

Who would I invite to an event?

Group formation

- Whole class for story sharing
- Working individually
- Whole class

Introduction

Tell the class a story about Guru Nanak from Resource sheet 2.

Activities

Re-read the four points of his message and explain that Guru Nanak was a good leader because he behaved in a way that showed his followers how to lead a good life. He was a good role model. In the story, Guru Nanak shared his wealth with those less fortunate than himself. Explain or remind people that in the Sikh place of worship, the gurdwara, there is a special kitchen/dining hall called the langar. Anyone is welcome to go there for a meal at any time, even if you are not Sikh. This is just what Guru Nanak would have wanted.

Ask the class: *Who would you invite to share a meal at your house or school? Have you seen anyone in the news recently who could do with your help in this way? Are there any older people living nearby who would benefit from your company and good food?*

Ask people to make an invitation to a sharing meal or a 'coffee and chat' event. Encourage them to make the invitation as bright and welcoming as possible. Discuss first: What information do you need? (Time, place, date, reply if necessary and what sort of event it is.) It may be useful to show some old invitations as examples.

It would be lovely if people could invite a small group of people to school. The class could perform some music or act out a play based on their knowledge of Sikhism and/or Guru Nanak.

Plenary

Look at the invitations and talk about how it feels when you are invited somewhere. *How do you feel if you don't get an invitation? Why is it good to share? Does it make you feel good to invite and share?*

Differentiation

Give less able writers a writing frame or encourage people to design their invitation on a computer.

Extension

Encourage people to learn more about the Sikh gurdwaras from books.

Notes



Name: _____

Date: _____

Guru Nanak

A long time ago, Nanak went to bathe in the river and mysteriously disappeared. Everyone was worried and they looked everywhere for him. Many people gathered at the side of the river and they began to talk about the kind things that he had done. One of the stories they told was this:

Nanak was given some money by his father who wanted him to become a successful businessman. He told him to spend the money wisely. On his journey he met some Hindu men who had not eaten for days. They had no money for food. Nanak went to the market and bought as much food as he could with the money his father had given him. He gave it to the hungry men.

When he returned home, his father was furious with him for wasting the money. Nanak was confused. He thought he had spent the money wisely. His father was disappointed with his son.

(At this point, have a discussion about Nanak and his father. Why did Nanak do what he did? Was he right to spend his father's money on the hungry people? Why was his father disappointed with him?)

Three days went by and people had given up hope of ever seeing Nanak alive again.

Then, he reappeared.

His family and friends were so happy to see him safe and well. They wanted to know where he had been, but Nanak couldn't speak because he was so excited.

After three days his best friend asked him what had happened. Nanak explained that he had learned from God that, 'there is neither Hindu nor Muslim, just man'. He believed that he had had a message from God telling him to teach people that their actions towards others were important, not whether they were a Hindu or a Muslim. He believed



Name: _____

Date: _____

that he had to spread the word of God to tell people that we all belong to the same family, God's family.

People started referring to him as 'Guru' which means 'Teacher'.

Guru Nanak founded Sikhism and gave up all his material wealth. He travelled far and wide. His message was:

There is one God.

All people are equal.

You must respect other people's faiths.

You must lead a decent and good life.