

Grade: Kindergarten
Lesson Number: 5
Unit Name: Sikh Symbols
Course: Virṣā
Title: 'Khaṇḍā

Standards

Standard 6: Understanding Sikh Symbols

- Students identify and describe Sikh symbols. (e.g. Nishān Sāhib, Khaṇḍā, Ik Oaṅkār, 5 Kakār, 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 Khaṇḍā by understanding the parts of the Khaṇḍā (e.g. two Kirpāns, Cakar and Khaṇḍā) Students will be making a Khaṇḍā mobile.

Prerequisites

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

Materials

- Pictures of Khaṇḍā
- Explanation of what the Khaṇḍā is and its significance
- Template of the Khaṇḍā.
- Template of the pieces of the Khaṇḍā.
- Multiple colors of cardstock or construction paper
- Hanger
- Single-hole punch
- Colored pencils, markers, glitter or glitter glue
- Scissors
- Pencils
- String or yarn

Advanced Preparation

- Teacher should read the explanation of the significance of the Khaṇḍā and make sure the students understand it in order to answer the questions you will ask.
- Create five templates of a Khaṇḍā on cardstock and another five templates of parts of the Khaṇḍā.
- It will also be helpful to have a Khaṇḍā mobile already made.
- Some students may need more help than others. It would be ideal to have the cutouts of the Khaṇḍā already prepared so that students only have to put the mobile together.

Engagement (20 minutes)

- Show students the picture of the Khaṇḍā and ask them if they know what it is.

- Cover up most of the Khandā – so that students can only see one Kirpān ask students if they know what (the Kirpān) it is.
- Reveal the entire Khandā. Once again ask students if they can find another Kirpān.
- Read the explanation 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? As students are telling you about each part, label it on the Khandā.
 - What does the Khandā remind you of?

Exploration (30 minutes)

- Tell the students, “Today we will be making a Khandā Mobile.”
- Give each student two pieces of cardstock or construction paper. Have them trace a Khandā using the template on one paper.
- On the other paper, students will trace the template of the parts of the Khandā.
- After tracing, allow students to cut out their shapes and decorate them using crayons, markers and/or glitter.
- Using the hole-punch, make a hole at the top of each cut-out.
- Insert the string through the holes and tie the pieces to the hanger. The actual Khandā should be in the middle and the parts of the Khandā should be tied on either side of the Khandā.
- Help students label their parts of the Khandā.

Explanation/Extension (10 minutes)

- Have students sit in a circle. Ask them what they remember about the Khandā explanation from the beginning of the lesson.
- Students should share the information in Pañjābī.
- Ask students: What do we do for our community? What are some other things that we can do to be involved with the community?
- If students can’t think of any ideas – share these to help them think: pick up garbage, recycle, plant flowers and trees, visit elderly in nursing homes, volunteer at a homeless shelter, etc...
- It would be wonderful if the class could begin a project to work with the larger community, or smaller projects could be undertaken at the Gurduārā.
Sample Project ideas include: picking up trash around the Gurduārā, serving laṅgar, doing sevā in laṅgar, serving parshād, etc...

Evaluation (On-going)

- For homework, have students explain the parts of the Khandā to their parents.
- During the following class, see how much they remember about the Khandā.

Teacher Resources

Khanḍā Explanation



This is a Khanḍā (ਖੰਡਾ). The name Khanḍā comes from the middle part of this symbol; it is called a Khanḍā or a double-edged sword. There is a circle around the Khanḍā. That is called a Cakar (ਚਕਰ). The Cakar represents the eternity of Vāhigurū (ਵਾਹਿਗੁਰੂ). There are two Kirpāns (ਕਿਰਪਾਨ) or swords on each side of this symbol. They are called Mīrī-Pīrī (ਮੀਰੀ-ਪੀਰੀ). These two swords remind us that we have an important job. Our job is to work hard to be close to Vāhigurū by doing pāṭh (ਪਾਠ) and always remembering the Nām (ਨਾਮ). We also have another important job, we have to play a role in our community by helping our community become the best that it can be. When I say community, I'm not just talking about our Sikh community; I think we need to help our world community. If something bad happens in Africa, I should try to help by collecting money – because every penny helps. I should help clean up litter in my own environment. I can help by doing sevā (ਸੇਵਾ) at the Gurduārā (ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਾ). What can you do? What can we do as a class?

Adapted from: <http://www.sikhs.org>

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