

Grade: 4

Lesson Number: 8

Unit Name: Bandā Singh Bahādar

Course: Virṣā

Title: Bandā Singh Bahādar - II

Standards

Standard 1: Sikh Heroes: Bandā Singh Bahādar

- Students identify Sikh system of leadership under Bandā Singh Bahādar.
 - *Students will identify forms of leadership, empowerment of the Pañj Piāre, and the issuance of Gurmatās. Further discussion includes the duties of the Khālsā in terms of freedom and justice.*

Objectives

1. Students will learn about obedience, leadership, sacrifice, nobility, love for the Gurū, by studying the life of Bandā Singh Bahādar.

Prerequisites

- Children should understand that Lachman and Mādho Dās were Bandā Singh Bahādar and about his meeting with Gurū Gobind Singh.

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil

Advanced Preparation

- Teacher should have read all the imaginary written dialogues by the children from the previous class.
- Pick two to three different examples of these dialogues to read to the class.

Engagement (15-20 minutes)

- Ask children what had happened when Gurū Gobind Singh met with Mādho Dās. They should be able to successfully reply that Gurū Sāhib wasn't impressed with Mādho Dās' trickery and that it didn't work on him.
- Then remind the children that in their last class they wrote an imaginary dialog between the two of the first meeting.
- Read some of the dialogues.
- Ask children if they believe these dialogues may have taken place, and why?

Exploration (35 minutes)

- Narrate the conversation. The most important thing that needs to come out in the narrative is that Mādho Dās realized that his trickery was of no avail and as a result he realized that Gurū Gobind Singh was able to show him that. So upon being asked his name, he called himself “Bandā” or “slave”/ “servant” of the Gurū . ਮੈ ਤੇਰਾ ਬੰਦਾ (mai terā bandā)

- Continue on with how after that Mādhō Dās became a “Bandā” of the Gurū, he began staying with the Gurū and his Sikhs.
- Gurū Sahib had a special plan for Bandā; he saw in Bandā lots of strength and he knew that he was a great marksman since he was young.
- While living with the Gurū and his Sikhs Bandā learnt many tactics and strategies for battle, because a large part of training in the Gurū’s camp was strengthening the mental and the physical.
- All this was during 1708. The Moghul Empire was oppressing a great deal of innocent people by putting high taxes on non-Muslims, by kidnapping non-Muslim women and children, by not allowing them to practice their religion.
- Gurū Sāhib’s youngest sons were bricked alive and his older sons had died in battle.
- Gurū Sāhib knew that he wanted Bandā to become the leader for the Sikhs, so that they could have someone strong to lead them in order to fight against the oppression of the Mughal Empire at the time.
- He gave amrit to Bandā and made him Gurbaksh Singh before sending him off to Pañjāb to fight against the Mughal oppression of the time, where he became popularly known as Banda Singh Bahadar.
- Even though Gurū Sāhib knew that Bandā Singh was going to be the leader, before sending him off he instructed him to have faith in the decision of the Pañj Piāre and that he should consult with them on important decisions.
- He also gave him five of his own arrows.
- So Bandā Singh Bahādar went on with the Pañj Piāre and the Sikh army.

Now ask children to predict what they think happens next. Was Bandā Singh able to get rid of all the oppression? Did he win all the battles? Did any of his men die in battle? If they did, then how did he collect more people on his army?

You can choose how you want the children to do this. You can either have them write out their thoughts or to make it more interactive, but either way it will be best to have a discussion around it. Let children listen to each others thoughts and see how they can counter it. This is a good opportunity to observe children’s understanding of certain concepts.

Explanation/Extension (5-10 minutes)/ Evaluation

- Discuss children’s thoughts from above.
- Ask children to do some research on Bandā Singh and his battles.

Teacher Resources**Books**

- Books about Sikh Martyrs, Sikh History, (Ganda Singh's *Banda Singh Bahadur*, *A Short history of Sikhs* by Teja Singh & Ganda Singh etc.)
- Harish Dhillon, The Legend of Banda Bahadur

Website:

<http://www.sikh-history.com/sikhhist/warriors/banda.html>

