

**Grade: 4**

**Lesson Number: 10**

**Course: Virṣā**

**Unit Name: Bandā Singh Bahādar**

**Title: Bandā Singh Bahādar - IV**

### **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. Children learn what happened when Banda Singh Bahādar is captured and the events that lead to his death.

### **Prerequisites**

- Lesson I, II and III in this four-lesson series on Bandā Singh Bahādar.

### **Materials**

- Pictures
- Dry Erase/Markers
- Readings below

### **Advanced Preparation**

- Be familiar with the entire life of Bandā Singh Bahādar.
- Be dramatic when going over the exploration part.

### **Engagement (15-20 minutes)**

- Review the lessons on Bandā Singh Bahādar that you've been through thus far. Have children do most of the talking.
- Write buzz words on the board to help the flow. Focus on review since his meeting with Gurū Gobind Singh.
- Bring out issues of his advisors (those who were part of his team and how they perceived him).
- Bring out the rule of land, minting of coins, the seal pulling in importance of Sikh Sovereignty as highlighted in previous lesson and below.
- End the review with discussion and details of his capture.

### **Exploration (35 minutes)**

- During this part, you want to be able to tell the children the tortures that took place on Bandā Singh Bahādar and the other Sikhs.
- Emphasize the fact that no one gave up the Sikh faith even though they were given the option that their lives would be spared if they adopted Islam.
- Give the example of a young Sikh disowning his mother. (information attached)

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

- Discuss with children if this is what they were expecting the conclusion to be and why? If it was not what they were expecting, why was that?
- Ask them what this shows about the Sikhs soon after Gurū Gobind Singh? Ask them what they would do if they were in that situation.

**Evaluation (On-going)**

- The review and discussion section should be used as an evaluation.
- Pay special attention to each student's participation and soon after class document each student's progress.

## **Teacher Resources**

### Websites

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

<http://allaboutsikhs.com/warriors/>

### Further Resources

- 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"

### Bandā Singh Bahādar's Martyrdom

The Sikh forces were ultimately besieged by an overwhelming number of Mughal forces in the fortress of Gurdās Naṅgal (ਗੁਰਦਾਸ ਨੰਗਲ). The Sikhs fought valiantly under the leadership of Bandā Singh Bahādar inflicting heavy casualties on the Mughal army. However, due to prolonged encircling of the fortress by superior number of forces, the Sikh forces were left with no rations. They were forced to eat tree leaves to sustain themselves. Due to this, they became too weak to fight the enemy.

Ultimately, the brave Sikh general Bandā Singh Bahādar was arrested along with seven hundred Sikh soldiers and brought to Delhi, where they were mounted on ponies, insulted and paraded in the Bazars of Delhi.

The Sikhs were offered amnesty if they accepted conversion to Islam. Not one among them accepted this offer of lease of life. As such they were tortured and put to death publicly. They died in high spirits, sticking to their faith.

Finally before Bandā Singh Bahādar was butchered most mercilessly by the tyrant rulers, his four year-old son was put to death in front of Bandā Singh Bahādar, by cutting open his abdomen. His heart was taken out and thrust into the mouth of Bandā Singh Bahādar. But even this most inhuman and cruel act of tyrant rulers failed to break Bandā Singh Bahādar's resolve and determination. He remained composed as ever. Finally, he was put to death most mercilessly by pinching the flesh from his body, bit by bit, by means of heated pincers.

Thus came to an end and eventful chapter of Sikh History when the tyrant Mughal rulers tasted defeat after defeat for a number of years at the hand of Sikhs under the leadership of the first Sikh General Bandā Singh Bahādar. The Gurū thus demonstrated to the people the true strength of mind and body of those who had partaken Amrit and how a Bairāgī who was notorious and aimless, could turn out to be a brave person with credible achievements.

### Example of Young Sikh

Khāfī Khān (ਖਾਫੀ ਖਾਨ) illustrates the resolute will and complete devotion to their cause displayed by those Sikhs by telling us about one young prisoner who was about to be called up from the line. This boy had been newly married and had been hauled in by Zakarīā Khān's (ਜ਼ਕਰੀਆ ਖਾਨ) soldiers on the way, only to swell the number of captives for the pleasure of Farūkh Siyār (ਫ਼ਾਰੂਖ ਸਿਯਾਰ). He was the only son of his widowed mother, who had hurried to plead her case before the Emperor. She said that her son had been beguiled into joining the Sikh bands, but was not a Sikh at heart. On that ground, the Emperor wrote out the order of pardon for the boy, and the mother had hurried with that note and handed it to the officer-in-charge of the executions. The officer read out the pardon and the youth shouted out, "My mother has lied. I am a Sikh of my Gurū in body and soul. Do not separate me from my departed friends. Please hurry so that I can join them now." Saying this he left the guards dumbfounded and rushed away to the front of the queue again. He lowered his head before the executioner and refused to budge until the sword had descended and cut him into two.

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