

The Birthday of Guru Nanak



1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4jLHqYMFtbCTNgwmc0JrBZH/the-birthday-of-guru-nanak>

Play your chosen music and display the image if using it (see 'Key links').

<http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/schoolradio/assemblies/images/birthdays.jpg>

2. Your introduction to the video

Find some items that children might connect with a birthday - eg candle, card, party hat, etc - or display the image from 'Key links'. Show the clues to the children and ask them to say what connects each item. Explain that at about this time of year there is a special birthday - celebrated by Sikhs all around the world - the birthday of Guru Nanak. Guru Nanak was born over 500 years ago and is revered by Sikhs as the founder of their religion. Ask pupils to think about why Guru Nanak is such an important person within the Sikh religion as they watch the video.

3. Play the video

Play the video. The duration is 5' 05" and the final words are: '...This message was the truth that Nanak had been searching for all his life.'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Use the story questions to help children recall the story -

- 1: What were the villagers arguing about at the start?
- 2: What did Nanak do with the goods he was taking to market?
- 3: What does the cobra do as Nanak sleeps?
- 4: How long does Nanak disappear for?
- 5: What does Nanak say happened while he was in the river?

Additional questions you could ask to help children reflect on the story -

- 1: What do you think the people around Nanak's village were fighting about? What do we do in school that helps us all to get along together?
- 2: What made Nanak different from the other people around him? What makes you special and unique?
- 3: We heard two stories about Nanak's childhood. Have you had important events in your life that you think you'll remember forever?
- 4: I wonder how you'd like people to remember your birthday each year?
- 5: Guru Nanak went down to the river to find some peace and quiet. Where do you like to go to be quiet?

6. Time to sing

An opportunity for you to sing your chosen song.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

'Guru Nanak is remembered especially on his birthday each year by the Sikh community, when they will read the whole of their holy writings, the Guru Granth Sahib, over two days. They will also think about the kind of person that Guru Nanak was... Think what you know about him from today's story... He was brave... Kind... Generous... Peaceful... I wonder what words people might use to describe what you are like..? In the quietness, think about that now...'

8. Opportunity for prayer

Now I'm going to turn my thoughts into a prayer of thanks. Make the prayer your own if you would like to.

'Dear God, Thank you for all the different qualities that make each of us special and unique - and for all that we each bring to our own school community. Show us all how to help each other get along together and, like Guru Nanak, to be 'peacemakers'. Amen.'