

www.KhalsaKids.org
Middle School Sikh Lesson Plan

Materials

-  Access to the internet, encyclopedias, and other books about Sikhism
-  Supplies such as poster board, markers, crayons, etc. (optional)
-  Computer access with MS PowerPoint (optional)
-  Copies of the Pop Quiz found in the 'Explaining Sikhism' portion of the website
<http://www.khalsakids.org/explaining.php>

Icebreaker/Opening Activity

Explain to the class that they are going to help you brainstorm all the things that might be connected to one's religion. Write the word 'religion' on the board, and have the students tell you words related to religion. Some possible responses could be 'history', 'culture', 'God', 'practices', 'appearance', 'language', etc. Explain that "while different religions can have different languages, appearances, or pasts associated with them, this does not make any other religion better than another. We will be discussing one religion in particular today – Sikhism."

Lesson

Divide the class into groups of 2 or 3. Assign each one of the items above to a group of students. Explain that they are to research their topic in relation to Sikhism. For example, they will be researching Sikh practices, Sikh language, Sikh culture, etc. They may use the internet, encyclopedias, and other books to supplement their research. Encourage the students to present their findings to the class in a creative way. They can write a song, create a poster, make a PowerPoint presentation, 'teach' the class in a mini-lesson, write a short play, etc. After all presentations are complete, you can have a short discussion with the class. Examples of some starter questions are below:

- How did the Sikh faith emerge, and why do you think they placed such a big emphasis on the rejection of the caste system, fasting, and ritualism?
- One of the most common myths about Sikhism is that it is a blend of Hinduism and Islam. How do you think this misconception started?
- What about Sikhs makes them distinctive?
- Explain the dual nature all Sikhs should emanate – being a Saint and a Soldier.
- All 5 of the articles of faith make up the external identity of a Sikh. Explain the significance of each, and why you think it was important for Guru Gobind Singh (the tenth Guru) to choose these particular articles for his Sikhs?

Assessment

Pass out the Pop Quiz, and give the students about 7-10 minutes to complete it. You can use this as actual graded assessment or simply an informal way for you to know how much they learned about Sikhism. After all students are finished, you can go over the answers together.

**Please use the 'Links' and 'Explaining Sikhism' pages to supplement this lesson.