



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Iranian Religion/Ceremony **History** Prayer Gathas
Comparative Religion Shahnameh

Age Group (circle one): PreK-K Grades 1-3 Grades 4-5 **Grades 6-8** **Grades 9-12**

Lesson # (if applicable): #1

Subject of the Lesson: Introduction to History

Material for the teacher:

Lesson Objective: For students to gain self-confidence about themselves by knowing where they come from, and by connecting to their origin and their heritage.

Lesson Duration: approximately 1- 1.5 hours

In-Class Lesson Discussion - Teacher asks students the following questions and spends time exploring each question before moving to the next item.

- What is your name, and what does it mean?
- Where were you born?
- Where you, or your parents from?
- What is your origin?
- What does origin mean to you?

Teacher shares:

When origin refers to people, it means ancestry: "He is of . . . French origin."

What is an ancestor?

Teacher shares the following:

An ancestor (also known as a forefather) is a parent (i.e., a grandparent, great-grandparent, great-great-grandparent and so forth). Ancestor is "any person from whom one is descended.

e.g. Ancestors of the Persians:

- King Cyrus the Great (r. 550-530 BC), founder of Persian Empire under Achaemenid dynasty. He issued one of the world's first human rights charters. A cylinder containing this charter was discovered in 1878 during an excavation of ancient Babylon.
- King Darius I (r. 522-486 BC) was the fourth Persian king of the Achaemenid Empire. Darius was a great military leader and even a greater administrator. He further expanded the Persian Empire and increased wealth and power of Persian kingdom.

**Activity:**

The diagram showing the relationships between people in several generations of a family is called a family tree, or genealogical tree.

Teacher shares her/his own family tree in class as an example.

This activity starts in class and should be completed as homework. Students are expected to interview their parents to learn more about their origin. They will start by writing down their ancestors, starting with their parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and so on. (Kids can start with the template but also create their own as each family will have different configurations.)

In Class Lesson Cont. (Teacher led)

Teacher explains the importance of knowing who we are:

- “Knowing Yourself” means respecting your likes, dislikes, tolerances, limitations, strengths, weaknesses, passions, fears, dreams, thoughts and feelings.”
- That self-awareness is also linked to confidence. By knowing who you are and what you stand for in life can help to give you a strong sense of self-confidence.
- If you know who you are – what your origin is, where you come from, then it is irrelevant what others might think of you.
- If you know who you are – where you come from - the language you speak – you will be proud of yourself and your origin. You can disregard what others might think of you.

Teacher asks students: In 3 minutes, write down, “What is history to you?”

Teacher asks students to share their responses.

*Possible responses can include History is the study of the past. In history, we study about the past life of people, we come to know about the reigns of various kings and how they ruled, their failures, their achievements, and their conquests. It also gives us an idea about the state of art, literature, culture, and civilization. (If students don’t know parts of this response, teacher may share this)

Teacher asks students a final question: Why is history important?

*Possible responses can include It is important because studying history is learning about past human civilizations. Everything that has occurred in the past is history and every event that is bound to happen will eventually become a part of it. A person who studies history is called a historian.



Glossary:

Origin: The point at which something begins or rises or from which it derives.

Identity: The distinguishing character or personality of an individual.

Ethnic: Of or relating to large groups of people classed according to common racial, national, tribal, religious, linguistic, or cultural origin or background.

Ancestry: line of descent: LINEAGE
Especially: honorable, noble, or aristocratic descent.

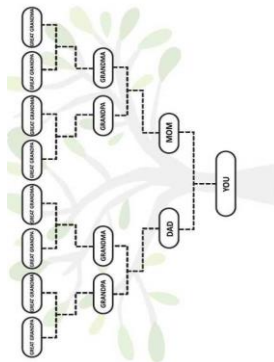
Ancestor: one from whom a person is descended and who is usually more remote in the line of descent than a grandparent.

Descent: derivation from an ancestor: BIRTH, LINEAGE

History: The study of past events.

Pre-History: The study of events happened before written documents.

Family Tree Handout



Sources: Google, Encyclopedia Iranica, Encyclopedia Britannica

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