

FACT SHEET

Bandi Chor Divas & Diwali

What is Bandi Chor Divas?

- Translates to "prisoner release day" or "day of liberation"
- Day of celebration for the Sikh community world wide
- Celebrates truth, justice and the victory of right over wrong
- Marks the liberation of the sixth Sikh Guru and 52 other kings who were imprisoned with him

Bandi Chor Divas Historical Facts:

- 17th century, Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji, the sixth Sikh Guru, was living in the town of Amritsar
- Mughal emperor Jahangir, perceived Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji as a potential threat and, as a result, ordered his arrest
- Guru Ji was taken to Gwalior Fort and imprisoned among 52 Hindu kings who had been imprisoned for political reasons
- Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji negotiated his that the 52 kings imprisoned with him also be set free along with him
- The emperor agreed but imposed a condition: only those who could hold onto the Guru's cloak would be released
- A special cloak was made with 52 tassles for the kings to hold
- The 52 kings were able to accompany him, symbolizing the Guru's commitment to justice and compassion
- Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji and the liberated kings returned to Amritsar on the day of Diwali. The occasion is celebrated as Bandi Chhor Divas, signifying the "Day of Liberation" or "Day of Release." The community lit Divas for Guru Ji's return.
- The exact date of Bandi Chor Divas can vary each year according to the lunar calendar

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Bandi Chor Divas & Diwali

What is Diwali?

- Also known as Deepavali
- Translates to “row of lights” in Sanskrit
- Celebrated by the Hindu and Jain faiths
- **Hindu Faith:** associated with the legend of Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after defeating the demon king Ravana. It is considered the triumph of good over evil.
- **Jain Faith:** marks the anniversary of Lord Mahavira's attainment of nirvana (liberation) on this day. It is a day of spiritual reflection and devotion for Jains.

What does the lesson focus on?

- The following lesson plan centers around the Sikh celebration of Bandi Chor Divas. While touching very briefly on the Hindu and Jain celebrations, the central focus comes back to Bandi Chor Divas with corresponding activities
- The activities planned throughout the lessons emphasize the concept of “making connections”
- Bandi Chor Divas is a specific Sikh celebration associated with the historical event of Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji's release, while Diwali is a broader festival celebrated by multiple communities, each with its own religious and cultural significance

Name _____

Date _____

KWL CHART

Bandi Chor Divas & Diwali

K

What do I think I
KNOW about
Bandi Chor
Divas/Diwali?

W

What do I
WONDER about
Bandi Chor
Divas/Diwali?

L

What have I
LEARNED about
Bandi Chor
Divas/Diwali?

Text to Self

Thoughts
Experiences
Family
Friends
School
Culture
Celebrations

Name _____

reminds me of

Text to Text

Other Books
Characters
Websites
Articles
Magazines

Name _____

is similar to

Text to World

Television
Movies
People
Current Events
News
Games

Name _____

makes me think of

Name _____

Date _____

TEXT TO SELF

reminds me of

Thoughts
Experiences
Family
Friends
School
Culture
Celebrations

Draw a picture!

Name _____

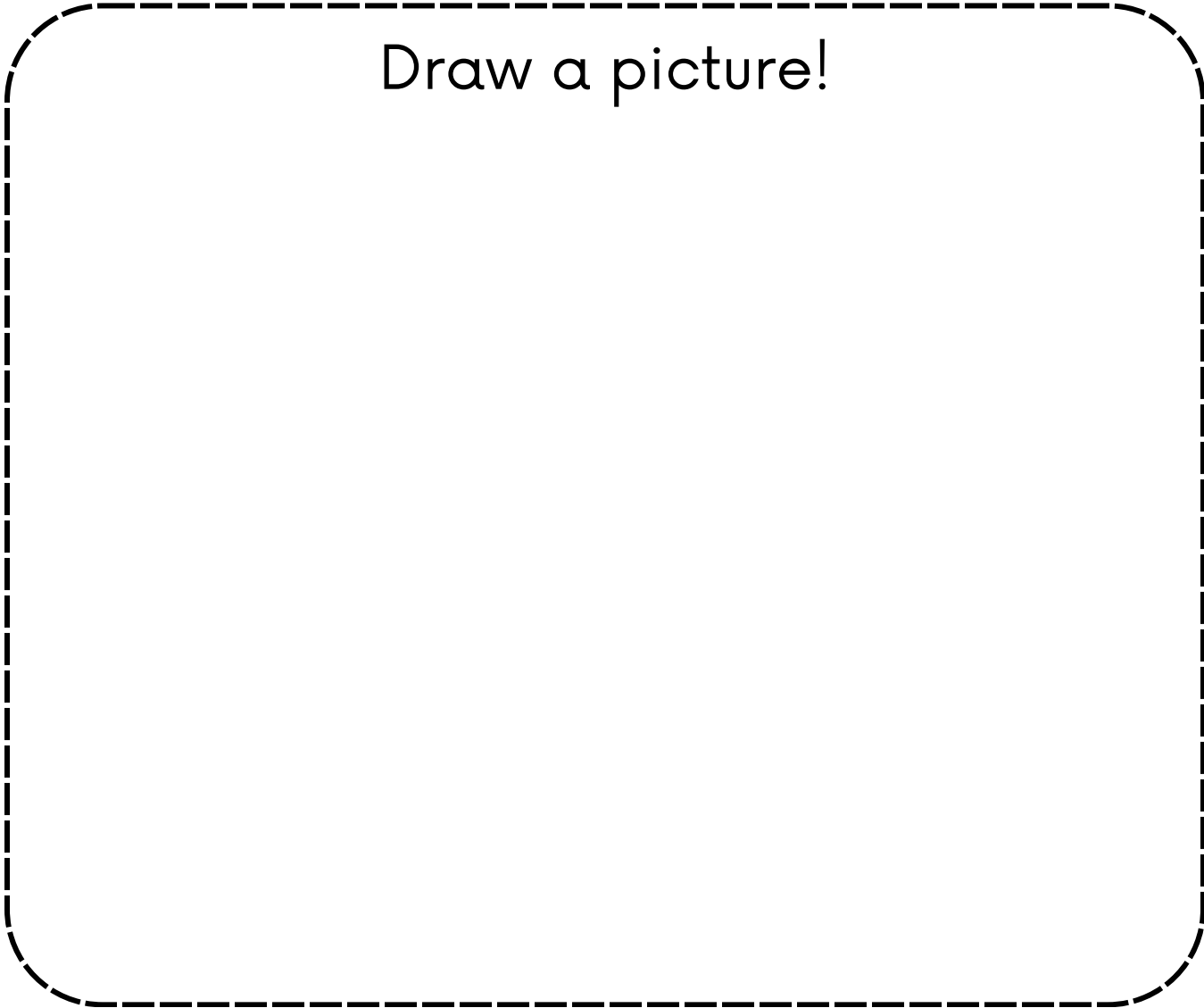
Date _____

TEXT TO TEXT

is similar to

- Other Books
- Characters
- Websites
- Articles
- Magazines

Draw a picture!



Name _____

Date _____

TEXT TO WORLD

makes me think of

Television
Movies
People
Current Events
News
Games

Draw a picture!

Name _____

Date _____

THE STORY OF BANDI CHOR

Kind
Actions

Unkind
Actions

Name _____

Date _____

THE STORY OF BANDI CHOR

Who is someone who has helped you in your life like Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji helped the princes?

Draw a picture!

This person is _____

