

Gurdwara - The Heart of a Community

Suggested time:

Course	Big Idea	Curricular Competencies	Content	Core Competencies
Interpersonal and Family Relationships 11	Tools and technologies can influence communications and relationships	Understanding context: Engage in research and empathetic observation to determine service design opportunities and barriers Ideating: Take creative risks in generating ideas and add to others' ideas in ways that enhance them	cultural sensitivity and etiquette, including ethics of cultural appropriation service design opportunities for individuals and families across their lifespan	I can facilitate group processes and encourage collective responsibility for our progress I can evaluate and use well-chosen evidence to develop interpretations; identify alternatives, perspectives, and implications; and make judgments. I can examine and adjust my thinking I can gather and combine new evidence with what I already know to develop reasoned conclusions, judgments, or plans
Comparative World Religions 12	Religious belief, across time and place, is a common aspect of many human societies.	Compare and evaluate artifacts as evidence of the cultural influence of religion (evidence)	institutional and social structures	I can advocate and take action for my communities and the natural world. I expect to make a difference
Urban Studies 12	The historical development of cities has been shaped by geographic, economic, political, and social factors	Assess and compare the significance of past and present factors that influence urbanization (significance) Ask questions about the content, origins, purposes, and context of multiple sources in order to corroborate inferences gathered from them (evidence)	historic settlement patterns in urban centres	I can initiate positive, sustainable change for others and the community. I build and sustain positive relationships with diverse people, including people from different generations

First People's Principles of Learning:

- Learning requires exploration of one's identity
- Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational

Tags:

- Community
- Relationships
- Leadership
- Gurdwara

Essential Questions/Understandings:

- What are Gurdwaras? What is their significance and why should we learn about them?
- Why is it important for everyone to learn about Gurdwaras?
- What role do Gurdwaras play in society?
- Consider and reflect on the contemporary and historical significance of Gurdwaras in British Columbia, Canada.

Included in this lesson:

- Lesson plan
- Student Worksheet

Part 1: Introduction

- *Think, Pair, Share*
 - Question Prompts:
 - What helps shape your identity in your [local] community?
 - Why is it important to be, and stay, connected to others around you?
 - How has your identity been shaped by the adults in your life, your community, and/or your culture/religion?

Part 2: Read, Understand & Discuss Learning (Paired and/or Brainstorm on Whiteboard)

- Students explore one of the following links and share key takeaways of the source. This is meant to be an introduction to the idea that Gurdwaras are not only religious centers but also the hearts of a community; they are places for people to come together.
- Sources
 - University of Fraser Valley's archive of stories about the Gur Sikh Gurdwara in Abbotsford
 - <https://www.ufv.ca/sasi/archive/centennial-archive/>
 - 1866 West 2nd Ave Gurdwara
 - <https://www.placesthatmatter.ca/location/first-sikh-temple/>
 - A section from this episode on the Nameless Collective podcast
 - <https://jugnistyle.com/episode-3-annie-wright/>
 - "Canadian Sikh Heritage"
 - <https://canadiansikhheritage.ca/gur-sikh-temple/>
- Question Prompts & Areas to Focus on While Reading
 - What about this reading stood out for you?
 - How did the community come together through the events discussed in these links?
 - What did you learn about Gurdwaras?

Part 3: What is a Gurdwara?

Instructions: One partner reads one section of the article; the other partner reads another section. (Students will complete a KWL, *Know Wonder Learned*, Activity during Part 3)

- Article Link: <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/3990/1/Riat13PhD.pdf>
- Students teach each other their main 3 takeaways.
 - *Section 1: Student A Reads*
 - 5.1 Defining a Gurdwara pg 271
 - 5.1.1 A Gurdwara defined from a Sikh theological perspective pg 271
 - 5.1.2 A Gurdwara defined by the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925 pg 272
 - *Section 2: Student B Reads*
 - 5.2 Defining Sikh identity pg 285
 - 5.2.1 Sikh identity defined from a Sikh theological perspective pg 285
- Suggested Questions:
 - What about this reading stood out for you?
 - What impact would this reading have on the Sikh community, if any? Explain
 - How might you move forward with this information and teach others about your learning?

Part 4: Watching Short Clips

- *Instructions:* Students watch the following clips (all 3 if time permits)
- Question Prompts Relating to Clips:
 - How does it help to see and hear the Sikh community and the Gurdwara in Canadian contexts?
 - How, and why, are community connections among Sikhs and non-Sikhs important in the development of our local connections, both in current and historical contexts?
- Clips x3:
 - “Historic Sikh Temple marks 100th anniversary”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Efw8rqTs3yg>
 - “MyCity Minute Abbotsford, BC - featuring the Gur Sikh Temple”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgkOk5kdjKA>
 - “Gur Sikh Temple - Celebrating 100 years” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVucpiKCKVo>

Part 5: Create Your Own Unique Version of a Community Centre

Without a doubt, besides being religious institutions, Gurdwaras are also community centers. Gurdwaras will often have an educational side with Punjabi/Kirtan/Sikh History classes, awareness campaigns, weddings/funerals/birthdays, and/or other resources.

- What would you include in your own Community Centre?
- Why did you choose to include these elements?
- What are the connections you are making to a Gurdwara, that you may not have otherwise made?

Teacher Resources/Extra Information: Historical & Contemporary Context of Gurdwara's for Teacher's

What is a Gurdwara? History, Significance, Inside Gurdwara's, British Columbia Contexts

- Gurduara: A Sikh Place of Learning
 - <https://sikhri.org/articles/gurduara-a-sikh-place-of-learning>
- The Gurdwara – BBC
 - https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/ritesrituals/gurdwara_1.shtml
- Gurdwara – Sikh Temple
 - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/gurdwara>
- Your First Visit to a Sikh Gurdwara
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch/ZXP_MxG9q1o
- Sikh temple facts for kids
 - https://kids.kiddle.co/Sikh_temple
- Sikh House of Worship Lesson Plan - Sikh Coalition
 - <https://www.sikhcoalition.org/get-involved/resources-for-educators/middle-high-school-resources/sikh-house-worship/>
- Gurudwaras in British Columbia, Canada
 - <https://www.allaboutsikhs.com/gurudwaras/world-gurudwaras/gurudwaras-in-british-columbiacanada/>

What are the Cultural Connections? Langar, within and outside of the Gurdwara - Sense of Community Building within Gurdwara's, Sense of place – for all – within

- First Sikh Temple
 - <https://www.vancouverheritagefoundation.org/place-that-matters/first-sikh-temple/>
- Langar Is The Sikh Tradition Of Serving Free Meals, And All Canadians Are Invited
 - https://www.huffingtonpost.ca/harman-singh/langar-sikh-free-meals_a_23556757/?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LmNvbS8&guc_e_referrer_sig=AQAAAJWtrTbHfoq97Uf-AP6o6tc5rrFJ0JUOCpqsXZ_H6Jn8GqWcKcXQX1fUebgOyfmGlwJMXoijqeJlNqPrSXBzrs3pftba3-x7mOrPAHu4iNpdR_ardriUd_Mm_fiaL5AO9HNohne5ta_iqK4mSoF3nhGJCU98d4XS3YKuvzK
- Seva
 - <https://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Seva>
- How to Feed Crowds in a Protest or Pandemic? The Sikhs Know
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/08/dining/free-food-sikh-gurdwara-langar.html>
- The story and facts behind Gurudwara Langar
 - <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/food-news/the-story-and-facts-behind-gurudwara-langar/photostory/74514974.cms?picid=74514995>
- Food that Builds Community: The Sikh Langar in Canada
 - <https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/cuizine/1900-v1-n1-cuizine3336/037851ar/>
- Langar Tradition Expresses Key Sikh Principles
 - <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/langar-tradition-expresses-key-sikh-principles-n436326>

- Langar brings the UBC Sikh community together to serve free meals for all
 - <https://www.ubyssey.ca/culture/langar-ubc-sikh-community/>
- In a Pandemic, Sikhs' Selfless Service Doesn't Stop
 - <https://thetyee.ca/News/2020/07/07/Sikhs-Selfless-Service-Doesnt-Stop/>

Sikh Understandings and Practices within the Gurdwara

- Visiting a Gurdwara
 - https://www.sikhiwiki.org/index.php/Visiting_a_Gurdwara
- Bowing to the Guru Granth Sahib
 - <https://www.sikhdharma.org/bowing-to-the-guru/>
- Creating Gurdwaras, Narrating Histories: Perspectives on the Sikh Diaspora in Italy
 - <https://journals.openedition.org/samaj/3431>
- A historical and theological evaluation of the Sikh Gurdwaras
 - <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/3990/1/Riat13PhD.pdf>
- Sikhs: A piece of history that remains fragmentary
 - <https://archive.shine.cn/feature/art-and-culture/Sikhs-A-piece-of-history-that-remains-fragmentary/shdaily.shtml>
- Why visiting a Sikh temple was the highlight of my trip to India
 - <https://www.intrepidtravel.com/adventures/sikh-temple-visit-india-highlight/>