



FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan

Subject Category (circle one): Iranian Religion/Celebration 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):

Subject of the Lesson: Collaboration, Consultation and Working Together

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

Goal: To help students realize the value of working together as a group.

- a. In our daily lives we have tasks that we need to do by ourselves. For example, we clean our room, make our bed, get our backpack ready for the following day, organize our clothes in the closet, ... However, sometimes we need to work with others. Each person in the group will take responsibility for a task. At the end we will see favorable results. This is similar to people working together to put together pieces of puzzle. Once everyone works together, the result is always beautiful. (ex. Members of a family each performing a task).

If we wish to make a wall collage, one person can draw the images, another takes photos, etc. Everyone will take part in this good project.

Why do we work together?

- The task will be completed in a timely manner with better end results.
- Each of us will benefit and learn from others' experiences and knowledge.
- Each person will conserve more energy and will not get worn out.

What do we have to do for our group work to be more productive?

- Learn more about the task we would like to accomplish.
- Talk and collaborate with one another.
- Each person will complete the task they are responsible for and help others as much as possible.
- Each person will do their task as best as possible.
- Each person will accept the task that they are familiar with and can do their best in (Either us or the leader of the project may have a good recognition of our abilities).



- b. Ashu Zarathushtra encourages collaboration with wise, knowledgeable, righteous, and benevolent individuals. He teaches us to evaluate the information before deciding. Sometimes in doing group or individual activity we may need the experience and wisdom of people who are knowledgeable in the given task. Gathas Yasna 30-2 says:

Hearken with your ears to these best counsels,
Reflect upon them with illuminated judgement.
Let each one choose his creed with that freedom of choice each must have at great event...
Gathas Yasna 30-2

Lesson for students:

Present the lesson in form of a story emphasizing the points from Material for teacher section:

A New House

A big loud family of rabbits lived in a wooden cottage by the edge of a lush green mountain. Since their house was old and worn out, they decided to build a new house, but they did not know where to build it or what type of wood to use. They decided to consult with others who have more experience in building homes.

Baba Rabbit consulted with Mr. Goat known as “Bozy” who was famous for being truthful. Baba Rabbit asked Bozy, “Where should I build a new house?”

Bozy answered, “You should build your house on firm ground, but I can’t recommend a good location. You should ask Mr. Turtle, because he has lived in these mountains for many years and knows the area better than anyone else.”

The rabbit family always helped and cooperated with one another so this time Mother Rabbit visited Mr. Turtle and asked, “Where should we build our new house and what kind of wood should we use?”

Mr. Turtle said, “Behind the mountain, you will find tall oak trees. The area has a good firm ground for building a house, but I do not know what kind of wood is best to use. You should ask Ms. Woodpecker because she knows all about different kinds of wood.”

This time Rabbit son went to the old pine tree where Ms. Woodpecker lived and worked. Rabbit son asked, “Ms. Woodpecker what kind of wood should we use to build our new house?”

Ms. Woodpecker replied, “You should use pine wood. Visit Ms. Otter who lives by the riverbank. She has lots of experience in finding wood specially when it is for building houses.”



The Rabbits obtained the pine woods from Ms. Otter, and with help from other animals built their new house. After the house was completed, they invited all the animals and celebrated the fruits of group consultation and cooperation together.

Vocabulary: Consultation and collaboration is a form of giving and receiving experience and knowledge from others. When we would like to do something but do not have enough information about the task at hand, we consult, receive, and evaluate information from knowledgeable individuals to achieve our goal in the best possible manner.

Note: Find images that will fit the story to add visualization when sharing the story with students.

Activity for Students:

1. Tell students that Ashu Zarathustra consulted with knowledgeable people of his time to better communicate his message to others. Ask students whom they would consult with and why? Lead the class to conclude that it is best to consult with individuals who are wise, knowledgeable about the question students have, righteous and benevolent.
2. Ask students whom they would consult with to get the best result in the tasks below.
 - a. What type of sport should you pursue?
 - b. Choosing a musical instrument to play.
3. Students can act out the story “A New House” and ask the following questions afterwards:
 - a. What did the Rabbit family consult with different animals?
 - b. Why did each member of the family ask one of the questions?
4. Ask students whom they would consult with regarding the tasks described below:
 - a. Task at hand: buying a notebook for your class
 - i. Your mother says, “Buy a 40-sheet notebook to keep your backpack light and not too heavy.”
 - ii. Your teacher says, “We have lots of material that need to be written in the same notebook of 60 pages.”
 - b. Task at hand: sports
 - i. Your friend says, “Sign up for Football. It will make your popular”
 - ii. School’s sport coach says, “Considering your physical ability, I recommend you sign up for Volleyball.”
 - c. Task at hand: good nutrition
 - i. One of your family members says, “Drinking carbonated sodas with food is very enjoyable.”
 - ii. The school nutritionist says, “Drink milk because it has calcium.”



5. Norouz Poster

- a. Break up the students into groups and ask each group to work together to make a Norouz poster. The poster should be a visual representation of the Norouz celebration.
- b. Students should decide if this visual presentation will be the haft seen table, families gathering and enjoying the new year, or Norouz in the Shahnameh (king Jamshid).
- c. Each group should decide which team members are best to draw some of the items, or cut out the photos from a magazine, who should color the title of the poster, etc.
- d. After the students have finished making their posters, ask them how they decided which member should do what and if it was a beneficial process of choosing. What have they learned from working together? How did it make them feel? What they would change or improve in doing future tasks.

Sources:

1. Din Amooz 4th and 3rd grade 3752 Zoroastrian year
2. The Gathas, Translated by DJ Irani

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