



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): Pre-Achaemenid Empire-Lesson 4

Subject of the Lesson: Ancient Times

Background Knowledge for the Teacher:

Material for the teacher and Lesson for the Student are combined in this lesson plan for an interactive session.

Lesson Objective: To understand the development of human civilization from nomadic to agricultural reform.

Lesson Length: 1- 1.5 hour

Introduction: **Teacher** reminds students: History is the study of past events.
Pre-History is the study of events that happened before written documents.

Teacher asks students the following question and spends time exploring the responses:

- What does “Ancient” mean?

Teacher explains:

- Ancient means belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
- Something would have to be at least 1400 – 1500 years old to be considered “ancient” in a historical sense.

Example: The ancient civilization of Persia.

Teacher challenges students in groups to write down few things that are ancient. Afterwards, the teacher and students have an open discussion about each groups’ answers.

Teacher asks students to read the first paragraph from handout:

- ***Ancient Times***

Humans have come a long way since their ancestors walked the planet about 2.5 million years ago. For thousands of years, people lived simple lives as hunter gatherers, spending their time looking for food and defending themselves against animals and other forces of nature. Then,



with the advent of farming, civilizations grew. Inventions and discoveries – the wheel, irrigation, and writing were slow at first, but progress has sped up ever since.

Teacher follows explaining the human progress:

Humans started as hunter gatherers. They were nomadic people who moved from one place to another following the animals they hunted, and seasonally available wild plants and game.

Teacher asks students to continue reading the next paragraph from handout:

– ***The first farmers (9000-4000 BCE)***

...

Since around 9000 BCE, the Agricultural Revolution transformed the way humans lived. People grew crops and kept animals for the first time, produced greater amounts of food, and started to live in permanent farming villages. In the end, farming led to people living in towns and cities. Archaeological evidence has shown signs of irrigation in areas lacking sufficient natural rainfall to support crops for rainfed agriculture. The earliest known use of the technology dates to the 6000 BCE in Khuzestan in the south-west of present-day Iran. Latest findings show the first crops grown and cultivated by humans were wheat, barley, peas, lentils, chickpeas, and flax.

Teacher asks students:

- What does irrigation mean?

Teacher shares:

- **Irrigation** is the artificial supply of water to agricultural land. It is practiced by more than half the farmers in the world because they need more water for their crops than is available from rainfall.
- Ancient civilizations in many parts of the world practiced irrigation.
(See pictures on glossary page)

Teacher asks students to see photo 2 on the handout for this lesson, and find out how old is the irrigation technology that dates to the 6000 B.C.E.?

Using the following equation:

- (Given B.C.E. date + Present year = # Years old)

Teacher asks students to continue reading the next paragraph from handout:

– ...

Grapes have been produced for thousands of years, and wine making dates to as early as 7000 B.C. The earliest wine jar has been found in the site of Hāji Firuz Tepe, in the northern Zagros Mountains of Iran. The wine dates to the end of stone age period (5400-5000 BC). ...



Teacher asks students to write down the age of wine making jar found in Haji Firuz Tepe, using the previously stated equation.

Teacher asks students to continue reading the next paragraph from handout:

...
The first cities (4500-1000 BCE)

As farmers started to produce more food, people moved from villages into towns, since about 7000 BCE. By 4500 BCE, some towns grew further into the first cities. Each city had its own laws and customs and social structure. The first cities became city states, in other words they were all small independent nations.

Teacher asks students to write down and share, how many years ago is 7000 B.C.E. and 4500 B.C.E.?

Glossary

- **Ancient**- belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
- **Nomad**- a member of a community that has no permanent habitat (home) but moves about from place to place, usually seasonally and often following a traditional route or circuit according to the state of the pasturage or food supply.
- **Hunter-gatherer**- a member of a nomadic people who live primarily by hunting and fishing and gathering wild fruits, berries, nuts, and vegetables to support their diet.
- **Irrigation**- the supply of water to land or crops to help growth, typically by means of channels.

Lesson for Student:

The lesson for students can be shared through hand out as described above or through a PowerPoint presentation.

Activity:

1. Make a Kahoot Game out of the lesson. Include glossary terms and/or questions about the main points of the lesson.
2. Qanat is another form of irrigation. Have students research it on their phones and discuss it in class.
3. Discussion:
 - a. Did Zarathushtra live in ancient times? Why?
 - b. Zarathushtra lived in about 1700 BCE. How many years ago was that and what period does it fit into?



Sources:

1. Google (photos and charts)
2. Encyclopedia Iranica
3. Encyclopedia Britannica

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