



**FEZANA Age-Appropriate Lesson Plan**

**Subject Category (circle one):** Religion/Ceremony 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):** Post-Sassanid Empire- Lesson 7

**Subject of the Lesson:** Introduction to FEZANA

**Background Knowledge for the Teacher:**

Zoroastrians have migrated and resided all over the globe. At times, these migrations have been on a large scale and other times they have begun with individuals.

The largest of these migrations happened after the Arab invasion of Iran in 631 CE mostly to India and then again in the 1980s and still ongoing with the 1979 Islamic revolution of Iran.

Those who had migrated to India in the 8th century due to the persecution of Zoroastrians in Iran are known as Parsis.

Parsis since their migration to India have migrated to other parts of the world for trade, commerce, better education, and improved living conditions.

Today, there are many Zoroastrian centers and communities residing in North America. Many of Zoroastrian centers and smaller communities come together under the umbrella of the Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America (FEZANA).

**Brief history of FEZANA:**

The idea of a unifying Zoroastrian organization has long been on the minds. This became a foreseen reality in the 5th North American Zoroastrian Congress in Los Angeles in 1985. The organizers of the Congress, Ms. Farangis Shahrokh and Ms. Dhunmai Dalal placed the proposal for the organization of a North American Zoroastrian Body on the agenda. Mr. Rohinton Rivetna of Chicago drafted the constitution soon after. Delegates from different Zoroastrian centers with the aid of legal services of Ms. Dina McIntyre reviewed, fine-tuned, and finalized the document. On November 15, 1986, the final draft was sent and signed by 16 of 17 Associations of record in 1986. FEZANA was registered in the State of Illinois on June 2, 1987, as a not for profit religious and charitable corporation. FEZANA’s vision is of being a forum to unite and strengthen individual Associations with the decision-making power not with the executive officers of the FEZANA but within the member Associations (individual Associations



have the only voting power). The day-to-day operations of FEZANA will be conducted by its executive officers (president, vice president, secretary, vice-secretary, treasurer) and committees that serve under the executive officers.

FEZANA partners with Zoroastrian Associations to sponsor congresses, offers scholarships to students, and hosts educational talks among other contributions. Some of the FEZANA committees include the Religion Education Committee that supports religion education and teachers, and Interfaith Committee to introduce Zoroastrian religion to a wider audience among other active committees. For a complete list please visit <https://fezana.org/committees/>

FEZANA has a monthly newsletter that consists of shared news by different Zoroastrian organizations connecting all the Zoroastrians in North America. Many events such as youth camps, programs initiated by different organizations, new books by Zoroastrian authors and much more get circulated through the FEZANA newsletter.

### Zoroastrian Youth of North America (ZYNA):

ZYNA is the youth committee of FEZANA organizing events from camping, road trips, youth congresses to weekly get-togethers and more. Zoroastrian youths are encouraged to join ZYNA and it is a great community for the younger generation to look forward to.

### **Lesson for students and activity portion are combined as described below:**

Topic/Unit: Introduction to FEZANA

#### Lesson Objectives / Learning Targets:

1. Understand the role of FEZANA in the Zoroastrian community in North America.
2. Learn about the range of programs youth can get involved with to connect with Zoroastrians.

Essential Questions: What is FEZANA? How does it support the Zoroastrian community?

Materials Needed: Whiteboard, markers, Internet-connected device.

Introduction / Anticipatory Set (5 minutes): Ask what students know about FEZANA and its programs.

Vocabulary: FEZANA, organization, community

### **Lesson Procedure:**

- **Direct Instruction (10 minutes):** Give an overview of FEZANA and its role in the Zoroastrian community. Discuss the range of programs youth can get involved with now and in the future to connect with the other Zoroastrians.



- Start by introducing FEZANA (The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) to the students. Explain its role as an umbrella organization that represents Zoroastrian Associations in North America. Some suggested points to cover:
  - Discuss how FEZANA was formed to promote the study and understanding of the Zoroastrian faith in North America.
  - Explain FEZANA's mission, which is to preserve and promote the Zoroastrian faith in North America.
  - Discuss how FEZANA supports various programs and initiatives like scholarships, youth activities, and religious education. This goes back to slides
- **Guided Practice (15 minutes):** Discuss the benefits and functions of FEZANA. Talk about the specific events that can provide a platform for connection between Zoroastrian youths.
- **Independent Practice (10 minutes):** Students can research and present on a specific program or event run by FEZANA that they are interested in.
- **Summary/Closing Activity (5 minutes):** Share thoughts and reflections on the role of FEZANA, its programs, and its importance to them personally. Reinforce that the support of the larger Zoroastrian community, including organizations like FEZANA, can help them achieve their goals.
- **Learning Extensions:** Write a brief report or reflection on how they might benefit from FEZANA.
- **Assessment:** Participation in class discussions, quality of research and presentation, reflection.

Resources: FEZANA's official website, Zoroastrian community websites.

Post Lesson / Teacher Reflection: Reflect on the effectiveness of the lesson, student participation, and whether the objectives were met.

**Note: This lesson can be implemented virtually by a PowerPoint presentation of the basic information, breakout room grouping option, and the use of the whiteboard on Zoom.**

**Sources:**

1. <https://fezana.org/>
2. <https://fezana.org/zyna/>
3. <https://www.zathletics.com/>
4. [https://fezana.org/fjissue/FEZANA\\_2007\\_02\\_Summer.pdf](https://fezana.org/fjissue/FEZANA_2007_02_Summer.pdf)
5. <https://fezana.org/309/>

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