

TO KNOW THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC:
LOVE, REVERENCE

The Blessed Perfection, Bahá'u'lláh, belonged to the nobility of Persia. From earliest childhood He was distinguished among His relatives and friends. They said, “This child has extraordinary power.” In wisdom, intelligence and as a source of new knowledge, He was advanced beyond His age and superior to His surroundings. All who knew Him were astonished at His precocity.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 25

If the younger Bahá'í generation, in whom Shoghi Effendi has great hopes, take the pains of studying the Cause deeply, and thoroughly read its history, find its underlying principles and become both well informed and energetic they surely can achieve a great deal.

From a letter written on behalf of Shoghi Effendi, *Dawn of a New Day*, pp. 2-3

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

- To know the geographic location of Iran
- To know about the culture Iran
- To know the date and place of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh
- To know the given name of Bahá'u'lláh
- To know the names and social positions of Bahá'u'lláh's parents
- To know that the birthday of Bahá'u'lláh is celebrated by Bahá'ís as a Holy Day on which work is suspended
- To know the special character of Bahá'u'lláh as a child

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Recount to the children some stories of Bahá'u'lláh's childhood that reflect His special character, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, pp. 65-76).
- Use globes and maps so that children become familiar with the location of Tíhrán and Iran.
- Provide children with opportunities to experience the culture of Iran, including foods, clothing, art, music, games, language, customs, etc.
- Utilize visual aids, including film media, to present views and scenes of Iran and the childhood home of Bahá'u'lláh to the children.
- Have the children use peer questioning and teaching to learn the facts surrounding the Birth and childhood of Bahá'u'lláh.
- Have the children investigate and share about the political climate of Iran at the time, and the position of Bahá'u'lláh's family in relation to it.

WISDOM OBJECTIVE

- To understand through the events of the childhood of Bahá'u'lláh the uniqueness of His being

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Have the children work in groups to study specific stories from Bahá'u'lláh's childhood and compare His special qualities with those of other Manifestations as children.
- Encourage the children to use visual arts to recreate scenes from the stories of Bahá'u'lláh's childhood.
- Provide opportunities for the children to learn and understand some of the details of the structure of Bahá'u'lláh's family.



SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVES

- To distinguish that the unique character and behavior displayed by Bahá'u'lláh in His early life can serve as an example to strive for in our own behavior
- To connect the unique character of Bahá'u'lláh as a child to the development of one's own character as a child

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Have the children role play modern scenarios that parallel circumstances from Bahá'u'lláh's childhood.
- Engage the children in consultation; have them compare some incidents in Bahá'u'lláh's childhood with their own.
- Ask the children to choose their favorite story from Bahá'u'lláh's childhood, reflect on His behavior portrayed in it, identify the virtues embedded in it, and draw connections from it to their own lives and personal behavior.
- Have the children meditate on and memorize passages from the Writings that help one develop particular virtues or characteristics that are evident in the stories of Bahá'u'lláh's childhood.



ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVE

- To retell stories about the events in the early life of Bahá'u'lláh and to relate His unique childhood qualities to others

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Have the children prepare a display of the culture and geography of Iran, relating it to the childhood of Bahá'u'lláh.
- Encourage the children to deliver speeches about the childhood of Bahá'u'lláh.
- Assist the children to prepare a presentation on Bahá'u'lláh's childhood for a Holy Day commemoration of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh or a special fireside.

TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Sample Activities

ACTIVITY: THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES: To know that the birthday of Bahá'u'lláh is celebrated as a Holy Day on which work is suspended; To know the date and place of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh; To know the given name of Bahá'u'lláh

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging mind and heart; Use of memorization; Use of stories

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- story of Bahá'u'lláh's birth, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, p. 70
- memory verse, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, p. 64
- copies of Resource Page 53

1. In advance, make arrangements for the children to plan and host the community's commemoration of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh on November 12th. Share this exciting news with the children. Alternatively, you may plan a fireside or devotional gathering with this focus.
2. Teach the song, "Baha'u'llah's Birthday," Resource Page 54.
3. Read aloud an account of Bahá'u'lláh's birth from the storybook, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, p. 70, or from an alternate source.
4. Work with the students to memorize the following excerpt that acknowledges the coming of Bahá'u'lláh: "He Who is the Best-Beloved is come!" *Gleanings*, p. 319.

ACTIVITY: BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S CHILDHOOD

WISDOM OBJECTIVE: To understand through the events of the childhood of Bahá'u'lláh the uniqueness of His being

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To distinguish that the unique character and behavior displayed by Bahá'u'lláh in His early life can serve as an example for our own behavior

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging mind and heart; Use of memorization; Use of stories; Use of questioning; Use of peer teaching; Use of drama; Use of consultation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 40 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- stories of Bahá'u'lláh, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, pp. 65-76
- simple costumes

1. Have children work in groups, with each group studying a different story from Bahá'u'lláh's childhood, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*: "Bahá'u'lláh is Born," p. 70; "Bahá'u'lláh's Fishes," p. 65; "The Puppet Show," p. 73, or alternate stories in *From Mountain to Mountain* and *Stories of Bahá'u'lláh* (see List of Additional Resources).
2. Provide focus questions for each group's consultation after they have read their story, such as: "What special qualities does this story tell you that Bahá'u'lláh had even as a child?" or "What unique characteristics and behavior did He have as a child that would be an example for our own behavior?"

TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

3. Following their consultation, ask each group to prepare a re-telling of their story from the perspective of someone in that story. Provide simple costumes and props for those involved in the story-telling. Be sure to include each child in the presentation, recognizing the wide variety of possibilities for inclusion.
4. Have children practice telling the stories and responding to the focus questions for presentation at the Holy Day event.

ACTIVITY: THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE HOLY DAY COMMEMORATION

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES: To know the geographic location of Iran; To know about the culture of Iran

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging mind and heart; Use of memorization; Use of stories; Use of questioning; Use of peer teaching; Use of drama; Use of consultation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- maps of Persia or p. 55 of this Lesson Planning Guide
- photographs from *The Dawn-Breakers* or p. 54 of this Lesson Planning Guide
- Middle Eastern food recipes or p. 56 of this Lesson Planning Guide
- Persian music
- rose oil / incense



1. Provide the children with information about the geography and culture of 19th-century Persia. Utilize illustrations in *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*, pp. 54-55 of this Lesson Planning Guide, other maps, globes, *National Geographic* magazines, photographs within *The Dawn-Breakers*, or your public library.
2. Using information from these sources, determine how best to reflect the geography and culture of 19th Century Persia at the site of the commemoration of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh. For instance, you could consider painting backdrops on butcher paper, collecting accent pieces from community members who are from Iran, etc.
3. Plan refreshments for the commemoration that reflect Persian culture. Ask an Iranian friend to assist the children in planning and preparing the food, consult a Middle Eastern foods cookbook, or try out the recipe on p. 56 of this Lesson Planning Guide. Simple choices include nuts, dates, fruits such as melons, tangerines and pomegranates, tea and fruit juice.
4. Enhance the environment with live or recorded Persian music.
5. Perfume the air with rose oil or incense.

TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

ACTIVITY: DEVOTIONS FOR THE COMMEMORATION

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To connect the unique character of Bahá'u'lláh as a child to the development of one's own character as a child

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging mind and heart; Direct use of Sacred writings; Use of memorization; Use of stories; Use of peer teaching; Use of consultation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- memory passage
- prayer books, music

1. In choosing devotions to be read or sung ask the children to reflect on what they've learned about Bahá'u'lláh's character through the stories of His childhood. Consider passages and prayers that address the development of one's own character and assist us to develop spiritual qualities.

2. Have children memorize the excerpt on page 72 of *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One*:

The everlasting Candle shineth in its naked glory. Behold how it hath consumed every mortal veil. O ye moth-like lovers of His light! Brave every danger, and consecrate your souls to its consuming flame.

Bahá'u'lláh, Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh, p. 321

Include the memorized passage in the devotional program for the commemoration.

3. If you have community members who can chant in Farsí or Arabic, invite them to contribute their chanting to the program.

ACTIVITY: THE COMMEMORATION OF THE BIRTH OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVE: To re-tell stories about the events in the early life of Bahá'u'lláh and to relate His unique childhood qualities to others

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging mind and heart; Direct use of Sacred Writings; Use of creativity; Use of recitation; Use of stories; Use of peer teaching

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 45 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- memory passage
- prayer books, music

1. Some ways that children may serve as hosts for the event include:

- Greeting and welcoming the guests into the special environment they have created;
- Welcoming all and introducing the Holy Day;
- Offering or facilitating the readings and prayers;

- Presenting their story-telling of incidents from Bahá'u'lláh's childhood, and the results of their consultation on these stories' messages;
- Serving refreshments;
- Assisting with clean-up.

2. After hosting this event, consult about the success of this event and how similar experiences could be even better in the future.

GOAL: TO KNOW THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Resource Pages

Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday

Words and Music: M. McClellan

Do you know what we re - mem - ber, on the twelfth day of No - vem - ber?

We give thanks to the Land of Tá, for giv - ing us Ba - há - 'u' - lláh.

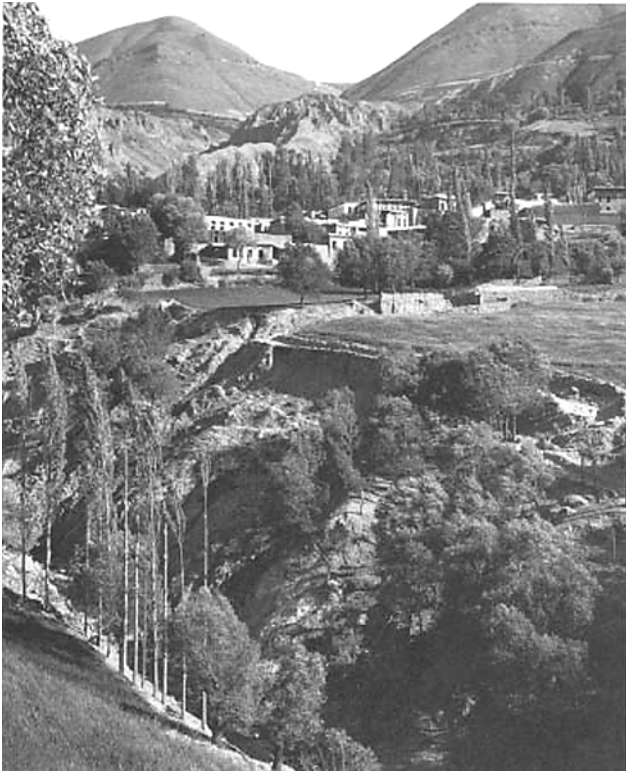
ff Ring the bells and sound the horn! This is the day when

He was born! **ff**

From Sing a New Song, ©1968, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

19TH CENTURY PERSIA



TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

MAP OF PERSIA



RECIPE

Ground Meat Kabab

Ingredients:

1 pound twice-ground lamb (it should be the shoulder of the lamb)
1 pound twice-ground beef or veal
2 medium onions, peeled and grated
1 tablespoon yogurt or ½ teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
½ teaspoon turmeric or ¼ teaspoon ground saffron dissolved in 1 tablespoon hot water (optional)

Baste:

1/2 cup butter or *ghee*
¼ teaspoon ground saffron, dissolved in 1 tablespoon hot water (optional)
2 teaspoons powdered sumac or juice of 1 lime
12 flat, 1 inch-wide sword-like skewers

Makes 6 servings

Preparation time: 40 minutes

Cooking time: 10 minutes

Directions:

1. In a large bowl, combine meat and the rest of the ingredients (except the baste ingredients, sumac, limes, and bread). Knead this mixture with your hands or with the aid of a mixer for 15 minutes to form a paste that will adhere well to cooking skewers. Cover the paste and let stand for 15 minutes at room temperature.
2. Using damp hands, divide the meat paste into 12 equal lumps about the size of oranges. Roll each into a 5-inch sausage shape and mold it firmly around the skewer.
3. Start charcoal 30 minutes before you want to cook and let it burn until the coals are glowing evenly. (You can use a hair dryer to speed up the process.) Make sure you remove the grill so that the skewers are suspended above the flame and do not lie on the grill.
4. Melt the butter in a small saucepan and if desired add the saffron water and a pinch of salt.
5. Arrange the skewered meat about 3 inches away from the coals; after a few seconds, turn the meat gently to prevent it from falling off.
6. Grill the meat for 3 to 5 minutes while turning frequently, brushing occasionally with the baste. Avoid overcooking, the meat should be seared on the outside, juicy and tender on the inside. When the meat is done, baste it.
7. Slide the meat off the skewer. Arrange the meat on the plate and sprinkle with sumac.

from Chef Gary Schmicker's *Loubelen Cookbook*

GOAL: TO KNOW THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
TOPIC: THE CHILDHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

LIST OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Stories & Articles:

Brilliant Star:

“Who Is Bahá'u'lláh?” Jan/Feb 02

“The Dawn of a New day” Nov/Dec 01

“The Glorious Sunrise” Nov/Dec 99

“Even as a Child” May/June 97

“Dream of Many Fishes” SpEd 91

“The Speech that Made Itself” Nov/Dec 83

The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One: “Bahá'u'lláh's Fishes,” “Bahá'u'lláh is Born,” “The Puppet Show”

Afnan, Abbas, *An Anthology for Bahá'i Children*, pp. 18-19

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Blessed Beauty*, “Dawn of a New Day,” “A Dream That Came True,” “The Puppet Show”

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Fruits of One Tree*, pp. 51-52

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Story of Bahá'u'lláh*, “Bahá'u'lláh,” “The Puppet Show”

Firman, Mary, *Journey Into Exile, The Story of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 1-5

Furutan, Ali-Akbar, *Stories of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 1-3

Garst, Hitjo, *From Mountain to Mountain*, p. 4

Johnson, Lowell, *Remember My Days, the Life Story of Bahá'u'lláh*

Mehrabi, Jacqueline, *Love of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 7-12

Meyer, Zoe, *Children's Stories from the Dawn Breakers*, p. 21

Miller, Grant Hindin, *Song of the Nightingale*

Oldziey, Peter, *The Garden of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 22-23

Music:

Sing a New Song, Bahá'i Songs for Children, “Bahá'u'lláh's Birthday”

Worksheets and Coloring Pages:

Brilliant Star: “Baha'i History Math Challenge” Nov/Dec 98

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Fruits of One Tree Activity Book*, p. 13

Firman, Mary, *Journey Into Exile, The Story of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 1-5

Oldziey, Peter, *The Garden of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 23

Activities:

Brilliant Star:

“The Dawn of a New Day” Nov/Dec 01

“Share a Fragrance for the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh” Nov/Dec 94

“Dream of Many Fishes” SpEd 91

List other favorite resources:

If you find any additional resources, please notify the National Teacher Training Center, or submit your findings to the Educational Materials web site.

THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

THE YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

**SPIRITUAL QUALITIES RELEVANT TO THIS TOPIC:
COURAGE, COMPASSION, GENEROSITY, STEADFASTNESS**

During the period of youth the Blessed Perfection did not enter school. He was not willing to be taught. This fact is well established among the Persians of Tíhrán. Nevertheless, He was capable of solving the difficult problems of all who came to Him. In whatever meeting, scientific assembly or theological discussion He was found, He became the authority of explanation upon intricate and abstruse questions presented.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Promulgation of Universal Peace, p. 25

...gather together the youths of the love of God in schools of instruction and teach them all the divine proofs and irrefragable arguments, explain and elucidate the history of the Cause, and interpret also the prophecies and proofs which are recorded and are extant in the divine books and epistles regarding the manifestation of the Promised One, so that the young ones may go in perfect knowledge in all these degrees.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Tablets of the Divine Plan, p. 54

TOPIC: THE YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES



KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES

- To know about the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh
- To know about Bahá'u'lláh's role as a champion and a leader of the Cause of the Báb

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- From the histories of the Faith, relate to the children stories about the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh. (See *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh*, Volume 1, pp. 78-92.)
- Use peer questioning and games to learn names, dates, and other facts relevant to the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh.
- Have the children work cooperatively to research the histories of the Faith to learn about Bahá'u'lláh's youth and His role as Leader of the Bábí community.
- Have children develop a list of the special characteristics of Bahá'u'lláh as a youth, with a story for each one.



WISDOM OBJECTIVE

- To understand the evidences of the Station of Bahá'u'lláh in His early years prior to His Declaration

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Aid the children in identifying specific events and actions of Bahá'u'lláh during His early years which give clear evidence of His true Station.
- Using guided imagery, enable the children to envision themselves as Bábis, waiting and searching for “He Whom God Shall Make Manifest,” considering early evidences of His Station.
- Conduct experiments in science which demonstrate methods for discovery of hidden potentialities as an analogy for the recognition of signs of future greatness.
- Discuss and write about Bahá'u'lláh's role in the Conference at Badashūt. Also use the arts to demonstrate this role.



SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVES

- To perceive in the events of the early life of Bahá'u'lláh, the greatness of His future Station
- To apply the understanding of the importance of one's early years as a preparation for one's future

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Create with children a manipulative activity that demonstrates the correlation between one's early years and one's future.
- Through consultation, help the children explore the possible future outcomes of various ways of spending one's youth. Role play the choices and consequences.
- Provide opportunities for the children to meditate on passages from the sacred Writings, which allude to Bahá'u'lláh's Youth, *The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh*, Volume 1, p. 78.)
- Have children plan for their own youth and what they envision themselves to become.



ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVES

- To recount the events in the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh
- To explain the relationship of these events to the Station of Bahá'u'lláh as a Manifestation of God

SUGGESTED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Make Feast or another community gathering an opportunity for the children to give a verbal presentation on the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh, and to relate how the events of these periods allude to Bahá'u'lláh's Station.
- Encourage the children to create and demonstrate their own science experiments, which can be used as analogies for this period of Bahá'u'lláh's life, or for one's own youth.
- Train the children in the preparation of a deepening session on the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh.

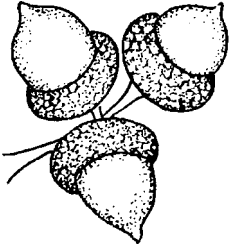
TOPIC: THE YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

Sample Activities

ACTIVITY: “FUTURE GREATNESS”

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To gain an understanding of the importance of one’s early years as a preparation for one’s future.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Education directed toward recognition of God; Use of nature; Direct use of Sacred writings; Use consultation; Use of reasoning

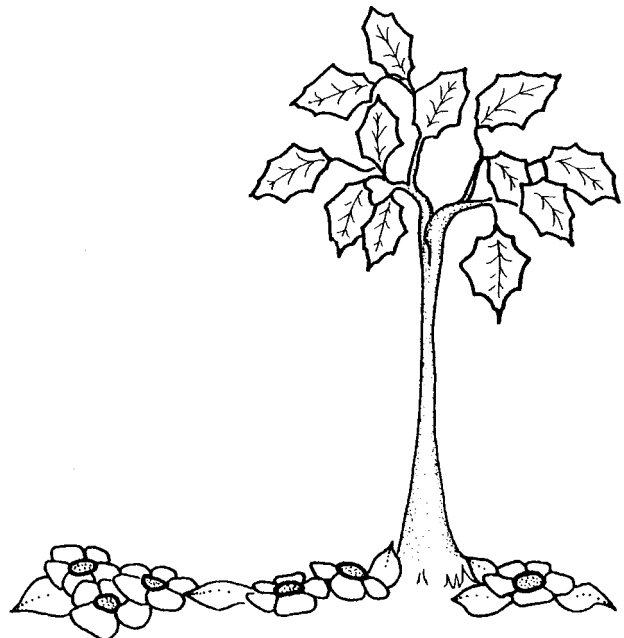


SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- Seeds
- Selected prayers

1. Show the seed of a large tree common to your area, for example, pine nut, walnut, acorn. Discuss the fact that within this seed are all the potentialities of the tree that it will become. Observe that there are no outward signs yet of its future greatness.
2. Discuss the Person of the Manifestation of God: outwardly He is born as any human being, but as He grows there are signs of His Station, even before He announces Himself to the world.
3. To expand on this analogy, take a nature walk to discover seedlings, saplings, and mature trees of the type whose seed you have.
4. Compare the saplings to the mature trees: what signs and evidences do they have that tell you what they will become?
5. Appreciate the greatness of the largest specimen found: feel its girth, gather under its shade, and gaze up into its branches. Compare this tree to the Manifestation who has declared His Mission, and is showing forth all His power and majesty.
6. Share some of the Bahá'í prayers that use trees and plants as metaphors for spiritual growth while you are gathered under the tree. One of these prayers is included on p. 65 of this Lesson Planning Guide.



GOAL: TO KNOW THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH
TOPIC: THE YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

ACTIVITY: EVIDENCE OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S STATION IN THE EVENTS OF HIS YOUTH

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES: To know about the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh; To know about Bahá'u'lláh's role as a champion and a leader of the Cause of the Báb

WISDOM OBJECTIVE: To understand the evidences of the station of Bahá'u'lláh in His early years prior to His declaration

SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION OBJECTIVE: To perceive in the events in the early life of Bahá'u'lláh the greatness of His future station

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging the mind and heart; Education directed toward the recognition of God; Use of stories; Use of consultation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- stories
- chart paper



1. Use a sapling as an analogy for this stage in the life of Bahá'u'lláh.
2. Read together stories of events in the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh. Events which could be examined are included in:
The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One: "Lives of Service," "The Conference of Badasht," "Escape to Tíhrán."

Alternate sources include *The Story of Bahá'u'lláh: "The Ocean of Knowledge," "The Marriage of Bahá'u'lláh," "The Báb's Message to Bahá'u'lláh," "The Beginning of Tests and Difficulties."*
See the List of Additional Resources for other sources of stories.
3. Following each story, brainstorm indications of His true Station and identify signs of His leadership of the Bábis. Record these findings on chart paper for all to see.
4. Consult about the evidence in each story: had anyone around Bahá'u'lláh yet recognized the "great tree" within the "sapling?" Make the reading and discussion of this stage of Bahá'u'lláh's life and exciting detective work, building to the anticipation of His Revelation in the Síyáh-Chál and His Declaration in the Garden of Ridván.

GOAL: TO KNOW THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

TOPIC: THE YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

ACTIVITY: BAHÁ'U'LLÁH'S YOUTH

ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVES: To recount the events in the youth and early manhood of Bahá'u'lláh; To explain the relationship of these events to the station of Bahá'u'lláh as a manifestation of God.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Engaging the mind and heart; Education directed toward the recognition of God; Teaching; Use of creativity; Use of Art; Use of the power of reasoning.

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 90 MIN.

Materials Needed:

- paper
- crayons
- pencils
- markers

1. Create a big book about these events.
2. Work in small groups with each group responsible for one page of the book about one of the events studied earlier.
3. Each page should include:
 - an illustration, remembering not to portray Bahá'u'lláh Himself,
 - a brief re-telling of the event,
 - a statement about the early evidences of Bahá'u'lláh's Station, which they discovered in this event.
4. Have the group take turns reading the big book to other groups of children or adults.
5. Practice giving proofs to respond to people's questions, especially concerning their explanation of the signs of Bahá'u'lláh's future Station.



PRAYER CONTAINING TREES AS METAPHOR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

O Thou Lord of wondrous grace! Bestow upon us new blessings. Give to us the freshness of the spring. We are saplings which have been planted by the fingers of Thy bounty and have been formed out of the water and clay of Thy tender affection. We thirst for the living waters of Thy favours and are dependent upon the outpourings of the clouds of Thy generosity. Abandon not to itself this grove wherein our hopes aspire, nor withhold therefrom the showers of Thy loving-kindness. Grant that from the clouds of Thy mercy may fall copious rain so that the trees of our lives may bring forth fruit and we may attain the most cherished desire of our hearts.

‘ABDU’L-BAHÁ, *LET THY BREEZE REFRESH THEM*, PP. 27-28

GOAL: TO KNOW THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

TOPIC: THE YOUTH AND EARLY MANHOOD OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH

LIST OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Stories & Articles:

Brilliant Star: “The Dervish” Mar/Apr 86

The Central Figures: Bahá'u'lláh, Vol. One: “The Badašht Conference,” “Lives of Service,” “Escape to Tihrán”

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Blessed Beauty*, “The Ocean of Knowledge,” “Nur Becomes Luminous,” “Conversion of the Hearts,” “The Great Incident at Badašht”

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Fruits of One Tree*, pp. 53-54

Afshin, Mahnaz, *The Story of Bahá'u'lláh*: “The Ocean of Knowledge,” “The Marriage of Bahá'u'lláh,” “The Báb’s Message to Bahá'u'lláh”

Furutan, Ali-Akbar, *Stories of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 3-10

Garst, Hitjo, *From Mountain to Mountain*, “Everyone Should Know,” also pp. 5, 11

Meyer, Zoe, *Children’s Stories from the Dawn Breakers*, pp. 21-22

Oldziey, Peter, *The Garden of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 22-25

Worksheets and Coloring Pages:

Oldziey, Peter, *The Garden of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 23, 25

List other favorite resources:

If you find any additional resources, please notify the National Teacher Training Center, or submit your findings to the Educational Materials web site.