

High School Sikh Lesson Plan

Taken from <http://www.khalsakids.org/teachers.php>

Materials



Documentary “Dastaar” http://www.khalsakids.org/yntoo_03.php



Access to research materials – internet, magazine and newspaper articles, books, etc.

Icebreaker/Opening Activity

As an attention grabber and excellent way to introduce this lesson, show the class the documentary “Dastaar”. This is a short film on the post 9/11 backlash that Sikhs faced in several areas including hate crimes as well as employment discrimination. After watching the film, allow the class to brainstorm what they know about Sikhs based on this documentary. Their responses might include:

- They wear turbans.
- 99% of people wearing turbans in the U.S. are Sikhs.
- They face a lot of discrimination, especially post 9/11.

Lesson

At this time, you can go over the major tenets of the faith: history, basic beliefs, articles of faith, the saint/soldier concept, scripture, etc. Please refer to the following websites for more information:

www.khalsakids.org – ‘Explaining Sikhism’ page

www.sikhcoalition.org – ‘Sikhism’ page

www.sikhs.org

Then go over some concepts stressed in “Dastaar”. Sikhs have been misidentified as terrorists and popularized as violent, fear-inducing people. Discuss the way in which the media can paint an image of a group, and how much that image has influenced American’s perceptions of Sikhs. Relate this to the concept in Sikhism of defending yourself and others around you from injustice.

Assessment

Students can write a report on the issues that Sikhs in America face today, especially since 9/11. Encourage students to use clips from news segments and articles to supplement their report. You can encourage the students to use the Sikh Coalition’s website www.sikhcoalition.org in their research.

**Please use the ‘Links’ and ‘Explaining Sikhism’ pages to supplement this lesson.