

Grade: 3

Lesson Number: 23

Course: Virṣā

Title: Māī Bhāgo

Standards

Standard 5: Sikh Heroes: Māī Bhāgo

- Students learn about Māī Bhāgo and her role within Sikh history.
 - *Students describe the life of Māī Bhāgo, and her historical importance. Through concepts from the Gurū Granth Sāhib, the students will discuss the principles of equality and the high status earned by women within Sikh history.*

Objectives

1. Students will be able to explain both orally and in writing the significant role played by Māī Bhāgo in Sikh History.

Prerequisites

- This is the last lesson about Sikh Women and their role in history.

Materials

- A picture of Māī Bhāgo
- Large sheets of paper and marker
- Copies of Graphic Organizer
- Copies of Anticipation Guide
- Pencils and crayons for students
- Story of Māī Bhāgo

Advanced Preparation

- None.

Engagement (20 minutes)

- Ask students if they have ever heard of Māī Bhāgo. (Don't mention that it's a man or woman)
- Show them a picture of Māī Bhāgo and have them make predictions about who she was.
- Pass out the anticipation guide and allow students about 10 minutes maximum to complete this. This is to be done individually.
- Collect the anticipation guides and pass out the Graphic organizers.
- Read the Story of Māī Bhāgo. As you are reading, students should be filling out their Graphic Organizers.
- Discuss the information on Graphic Organizers and allow all students to complete information.
- Have a discussion about the life of Māī Bhāgo.

Exploration (30 minutes)

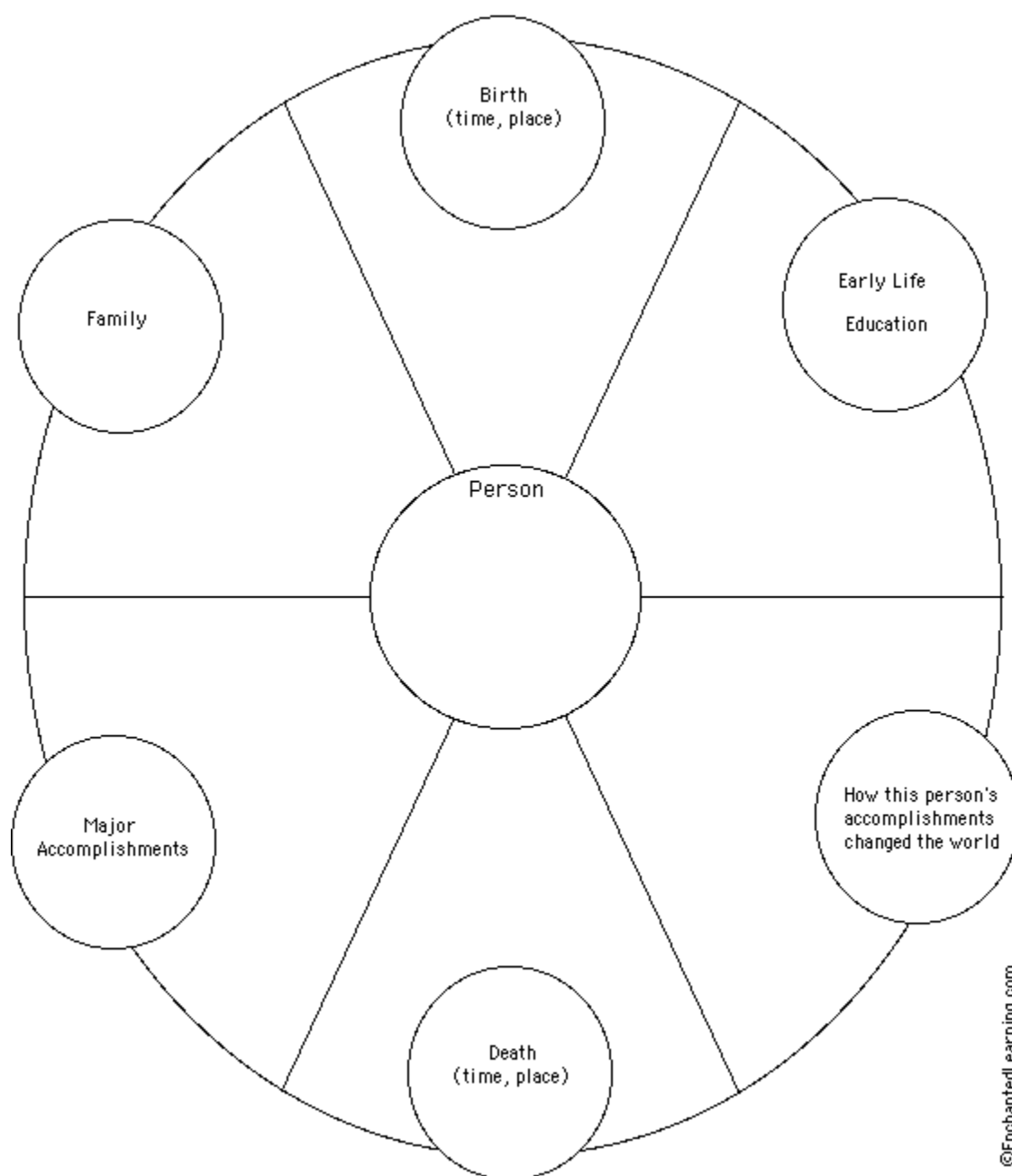
- Revisit all the other Sikh women that you have studied in this Unit.
- Working individually or in groups students will put together some type of presentation on the life of one of the Sikh heroes we have studied in this unit.
- Students can choose to do a diorama (a shoebox displaying a scene), a Power-point presentation, a play etc... (students may come up with their own ideas), or students can fill out the application to join Māi Bhāgo's unit and see if they would be qualified to join her group. They must also write a letter to their family about what life is like with Māi Bhāgo's group discussing challenges they've faced and about positive experiences.
- Presentations must include the following information:
 - Birthdate / birthplace
 - Who this person was
 - Accomplishments
 - Why this person is recognized in our history
 - The most interesting fact you learned about this person

Explanation/Extension (10 minutes)

- Allow each student or group to share their ideas. Students should be given minimum one week to complete their project.

Evaluation (On-going)

- Once students have presented their drawings have them sit in a circle. Begin telling the Sakhi once again and have the students help you with the sequence of events of the sākhī. For homework, have them retell the sākhī to their parents and/or siblings.

Teacher Resources**Concept Map**

Application for Māi Bhāgo's Army Unit

Name: _____

Date: _____ *(use a date from that period)*

Birtdate: _____ *(Use a date from that period)*

Country born: _____ *(It wouldn't be the U.S.)*

Why do you want to be part of this unit?

List three reasons why you would be useful in this unit?

Why would you be the best person for her to recruit?

Signature in Gurmukhī: _____

Anticipation Guide

1. Māi Bhāgo was a brave man in Gurū Gobind Singh's Army.

Before _____ After _____

2. Māi Bhāgo became afraid and left the Gurū's Army.

Before _____ After _____

3. Māi Bhāgo arranged an army of women to fight when the men were too scared.

Before _____ After _____

4. Māi Bhāgo never got married and served the Gurū her entire life.

Before _____ After _____

5. Māi Bhāgo was one of the 40 Sikhs that had deserted the Gurū.

Before _____ After _____

6. Māi Bhāgo served as one of the Gurū's bodyguards.

Before _____ After _____

7. Māi Bhāgo didn't want to be a Saint-soldier but she was forced to serve in the Gurū's Army.

Before _____ After _____

8. Māi Bhāgo served during the time of Gurū Hargobind.

Before _____ After _____

9. Māi Bhāgo was born with the name "Bhāg Bharī."

Before _____ After _____

10. Māi Bhāgo was taught to ride horses and fight from her father.

Before _____ After _____

Māi Bhāgo – Bhāg Kaur

Māi Bhāgo (ਮਾਈ ਭਾਗੋ) was a descendant of Phero Shāh, the younger brother of Bhāi Laungā (ਲੌਂਗਾ) who converted to Sikhī during the life of Gurū Arjan. Born in her ancestral village of Jhabbal in present-day Amritsar district of the Pañjāb, she was married to Nidhān Singh of Paṭṭī (ਪੱਟੀ). Overall, she was a staunch Sikh by birth and upbringing.



Her story begins in a moment where Mughals and hilly chiefs had surrounded Anandpur Sāhib and were demanding it be evacuated. The Mughals promised that anyone who renounced their allegiance as Sikhs of Gurū Gobind Singh would be left untouched. A group of 40 Sikhs, led by Mahām (ਮਹਾਂ) Singh, decided to take that route and told Gurū Gobind Singh that they no longer belonged to him. Gurū Gobind Singh accepted their decision and asked them to record this renunciation in a document. After the forty Sikhs signed this document, they left Gurū Gobind Singh and returned to their homes. Upon their return, Māi Bhāgo learned of their abandonment of Gurū Gobind Singh and was distressed to hear that some of the Sikhs of her neighborhood had deserted their Gurū. So Māi Bhāgo took action and began an inspirational movement. She rallied the deserters of the Gurū, and together, they traveled to reunite with their leader.

Meanwhile, Gurū Gobind Singh had to evacuate the fort of Anandpur, and his children were lost in the confusion. The two youngest sons, Zorāvar Singh and Fatih Singh, went along with their grandmother (mother of Gurū Gobind Singh). Meanwhile, the elder two Ajīt Singh and Jhujhār Singh were with their father. Then at the battle of Camkaur (ਚਮਕੌਰ) Gurū's elder sons attained martyrdom, and the Gurū along with five Sikhs evacuated Camkaur. While traveling in the Mālṡā (ਮਾਲਵਾ) region he was hotly pursued by Mughal forces of Aurāṅzeb (ਔਰੰਗਜ਼ੇਬ).

Traveling day and night in the jungles of Mālṡā region, imperial Mughal forces were in constant pursuit of the Gurū. Gurū Gobind Singh reached village of Khidrāṇā (ਖਿਦਰਾਣਾ), when Māi Bhāgo and the men known as Cālī Mukte (ਚਾਲੀ ਮੁਕਤੇ) she was leading, stopped near the pool of Khidrāṇā where an imperial army in pursuit of Gurū Gobind Singh was

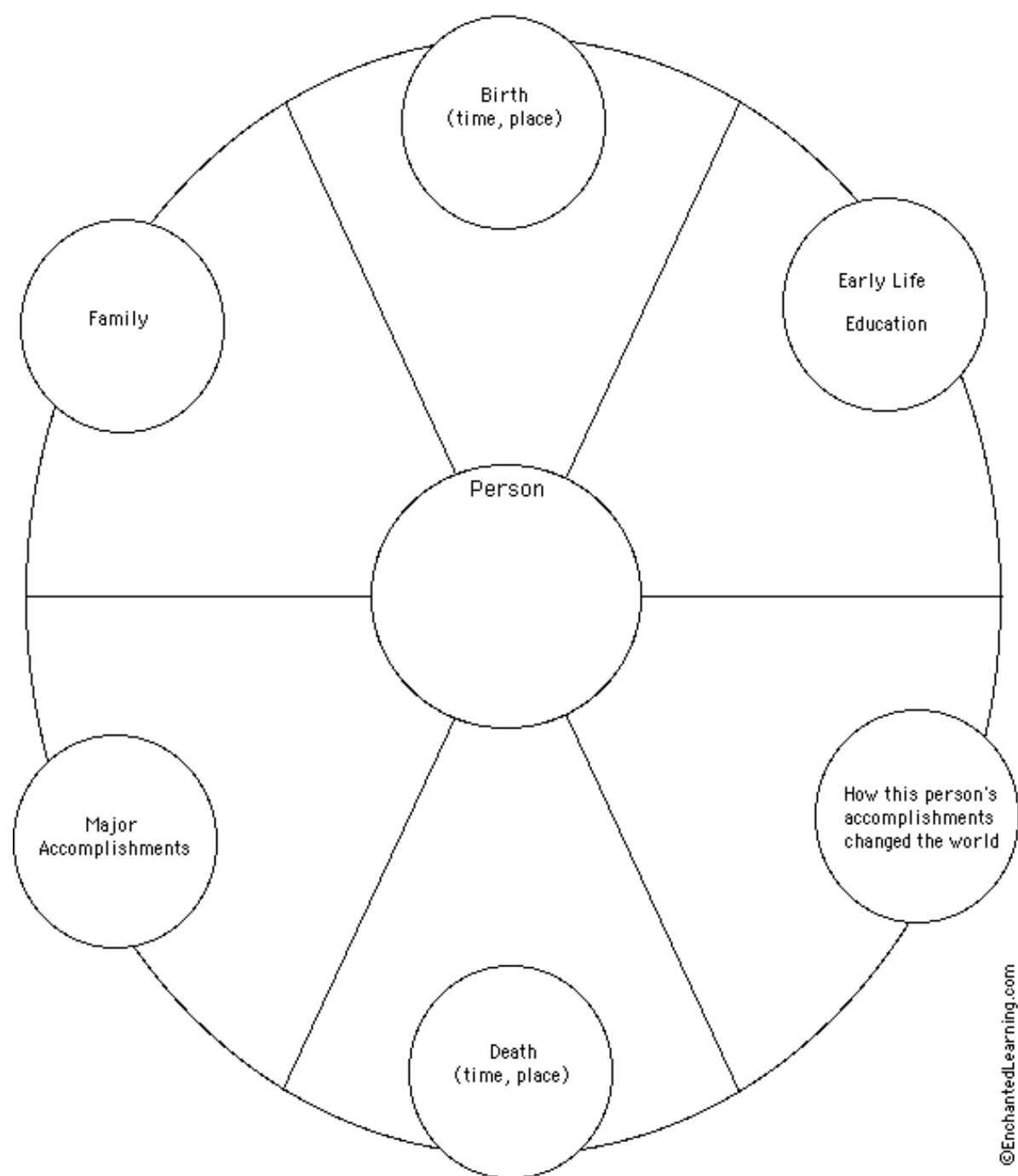
about to overtake him. They challenged the pursuing host and fought. Now this battleground is known as Muktsar (ਮੁਕਤਸਰ) Sāhib.



Her hut in Jinvārā (ਜਿਨਵਾਰਾ) has now been converted into Gurduārā Tap Asthān Māi Bhāgo. At Nanded, too, a hall within the compound of Takht Sackhand (ਸਚਖੰਡ) is devoted to her, and Srī Hazūr Sāhib marking the site of her residence is known as Buṅgā (ਬੁੰਗਾ) Māi Bhāgo.

Images courtesy of: www.sikh-history.com

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