Getting to Know Series

Hari Singh Nalua

Gurmat Education Resource

Jamrud Fort

SIKH Research Institute

sojhi

Gurmat & Punjabi Education Resource
Sikh Research Institute (SikhRI) is a global non-profit organization based in North America. The mission of SikhRI is to provide educational resources to Sikhs to lead a Guru-inspired life. SikhRI exists to spread the fragrance of Sikhi through Gurbani-based education to anyone willing to learn.

SikhRI inspires individuals to connect with their roots and organizations to think critically based on Guru Granth Sahib's paradigm of IkOankar (1-Ness). SikhRI is an oasis for development and dialogue based on excellence, integrity, and service to realize full human potential.

SikhRI actively works towards promoting global harmony by building stronger relationships among the Sikh and non-Sikh communities. Our primary activities include facilitating group training, providing curriculum materials, creating global awareness of Sikhi, and delivering strategic solutions to the global Sikh community's key challenges. SikhRI also produces a diverse range of immersive programs, webinars, podcasts, workshops, online courses, and lectures covering topics as broad as spirituality, history, culture, politics, language, community, family, and self-development.

SikhRI publishes textbooks, bilingual children's books, translations, and anthologies. SikhRI also lends its expertise in the fields of art and literature. In 2016, SikhRI curated the Emperor-Prophet: Guru Gobind Singh Sahib exhibition for the Government of Bihar in partnership with the Panjab Digital Library. In 2019, SikhRI was the sole content curator for IN5 EXPERIUM - The Golden Temple, an audio-visual exhibition launched in Toronto, Canada, in partnership with FDA Trade Fairs Pvt Ltd. In 2020, SikhRI curated the Guru Nanak Sahib: 1-Ness to 1-Identity exhibition launched at the National Museum in New Delhi, India.

SikhRI’s Sojh program develops K-12 curriculum, resources, and products to help young people build connections and derive Sikh insights. Sojh curriculum and education resources are designed with relevant course material, appropriate learning activities improving Sikh education’s effectiveness.

SikhRI’s The Guru Granth Sahib Project is to connect contemporary English and Panjabi audiences with Sabad-Wisdom. SikhRI’s international team of specialists and subject matter experts research each word of the Guru Granth Sahib: etymology, grammar, meaning, and also provide a literal translation, an interpretive transcreation, and commentary in contemporary English and Panjabi while incorporating the musical, poetical, and historical dimensions.

SikhRI is supported and made possible by hundreds of volunteers and educators who devote their time and energy to SikhRI’s Sikh awareness and education mission, ensuring that workshops and events run smoothly and that mentorship programs are sustainable. Deeply grateful to its donors, SikhRI values their contributions, which allows serving the global community through developing new educational resources, facilitating presentations, and creating enriching reading materials for anyone seeking Sikh knowledge.
Vahiguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Vahiguru Ji Ki Fatih!

Welcome to SikhRI’s Gurmat Education Resource Getting to Know Hari Singh Nalua!

This lesson plan introduces students to Hari Singh Nalua and helps them develop a knowledge and appreciation of Sikh history. Getting To Know Hari Singh Nalua is perfect for use at home, Gurmat and Panjabi schools, and Sikh camps.

The lesson plan includes a five-minute video on Hari Singh Nalua’s life and a podcast in English.

The lesson plan provides questions to open up a dialog with the students and activities to allow them an opportunity for self-exploration and self-reflection.

Mona Kaur and Ramanjit Singh from Ashburn, VA, have graciously sponsored this education resource.

With love and appreciation,

Your team at SikhRI.
Objectives

Hari Singh Nalua (popularly ‘Nalwa’ or ‘Nalva’) (1791-1837), was one of the greatest generals of his time. Even though the contributions of Hari Singh Nalua are well recorded in the annals of history, he is often not celebrated or brought to the forefront of Sikh knowledge. As a general, he exhibited exemplary leadership qualities and military skills that helped Sikhs strengthen and consolidate their military and political position in South Asia. Today, not many people know of his contribution to the Sikh position and rule during the time. The current lesson plan remedies that by answering the following questions:

1. Who was Hari Singh Nalua?
2. What leadership qualities did Hari Singh Nalua exhibit as an administrator and military general?
3. What are the significant conquests of Hari Singh Nalua?
4. What was the role of Hari Singh Nalua in shaping the Sikh military position during the reign of Maharaja Ranjit Singh?

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop an appreciation of Hari Singh Nalua’s role and contribution to the Sikh empire.
2. Recognize and understand his personality traits that contributed to his skills as a capable military and administrative leader.
3. Through his example, understand what it takes as individuals to raise and maintain a successful dominion/sovereign state.

Readings

1. Hari Singh Nalua - Harinder Singh
2. Hari Singh Nalwa - Ganda Singh
3. Hari Singh Nalwa - Gurbachan Singh Nayyar
5. Sirarfan Hari Singh Nalwa - Qadaryad and Dr. Ganda Singh

Read Article Online
Getting to Know Hari Singh Nalua

Preparation

1. The instructor needs to be familiar with the history of the Sikh Kingdom during the rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
2. The instructor needs to go through the recommended readings, especially the article, before coming to the class.
3. The instructor needs to keep sufficient ready copies of the activity material.

Materials

1. Pen
2. Sheets of paper
3. Computers (desktops or laptops)

Exploration

1. Introductory Activity (icebreaker, game, etc.): Have an activity to break the ice and make the students comfortable with each other. You may choose to introduce yourself and advise the students to do the same if needed.
2. Write the following two questions on the board and engage the students in a discussion:
   a. Do you know what a rule (raja) is?
   b. What does it mean to rule? What things does ‘ruling’ entail?
      i. Give them two minutes to think it over and give their feedback.
      ii. Write all the feedback on the board.
      iii. Give them a general overview of what governance entails.
      iv. Share with them that ruling means running or regulating all aspects of society, like schools, businesses, banks, health care systems, transportation, communications, security, law, and order, etc.
3. Next, ask them:
   a. Do you know that Sikhs ruled vast swaths of now northwest India and eastern Pakistan in the nineteenth century?
      i. If they say yes, ask them to share more information.
      ii. Write down all the information they share on the board.
   b. Can you name a few Sikh warriors, generals or leaders of this period?
      i. Write down all the names they share.
      ii. If they mention the name of Hari Singh Nalua, pick from there and continue the conversation. Else, introduce them to Hari Singh Nalua by asking the next question.
   c. Have they heard about Hari Singh Nalua?
      i. If some of them respond with a yes, ask them to share what they know about him.
      ii. Write all the points they mention about him on the board.
4. Share the five minute Hari Singh Nalua video with them. Watch Video  Listen Podcast
5. Narrate his story and share noteworthy information regarding:
   a. His childhood stories.
   b. His joining the court of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
   c. His major battles.
   d. His time as a governor of three provinces and his significant accomplishments as a governor.
6. The instructor can do so by touching the following points.
   a. Who was Hari Singh Nalua? When was he born? (For the participants to relate to that time period, the teacher can inform them what was happening globally during that time.)

   b. What was his contribution to the Sikh kingdom?
   c. How did Hari Singh Nalua bring Afghans to their knees?
   d. What role did he play in dealing with the British upon their arrival?
   e. What are the war strategies Hari Singh Nalua employed that makes him a great general?
   f. What are the major decisions during his governorship, which display his able leadership as an administrator?
Engagement

Activity 1 (20 min)
Explore the leadership qualities and skills of Hari Singh Nalua. Have students generate a list of qualities of a good leader. After that, in pairs, have them discuss the following:

1. Why do/would you consider Hari Singh Nalua a leader?
2. What sort of leadership qualities did he have?
3. What do you think was his greatest accomplishment, and why?

Have each pair share their views/points with the class. If the class is large, combine pairs to make larger groups.

Activity 2 (40 min)

1. In groups of three or four, consider an important issue happening now, for example, climate change, human rights, and water rights in Panjab and around the globe, gender equity amongst the Sikhs, BLM movement and race relations, food security, etc.
2. Think about what Hari Singh Nalua would do in that situation today.
3. Research your chosen issue and record three to five main points (who, what, when, why, and where).
4. As a group, discuss what you believe Hari Singh Nalua would do in regards to this issue.
5. Keep in mind, Hari Singh wasn’t only a warrior; he also governed cities and areas of the Sikh Empire. Record all information on chart paper to present to the class.

Assessment

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand Hari Singh Nalua’s role and contribution to the Sikh empire.
2. Identify leadership traits that contributed to his skills as a capable military and administrative leader
3. Extend lessons learned from Hari Singh Nalua’s leadership to today’s context.

Closing Question

Once the class is over, ask the students a question to ponder on as they leave the class.

“How would a Sikh general and administrator of his caliber act like today?”
Publications

**My Gurmukhi Khajana**
A Gurmat Based Primer

On each page of this primer there are three words for every Gurumukhi alphabet complete with child-friendly illustrations. Vibrant illustrations bring to life words from Guru Granth Sahib, Bhai Gurdas Ji, and Guru Gobind Singh Sahib’s Zafarnamah and Jap Sahib.

*Shop Now*

**Daddy’s Turban**
Children’s Book

This bilingual book takes us into the world of a little Sikh boy, Tegh, who is fascinated with the way his father wears his turban. Tegh wants to grow up quickly, while his father cherishes the innocence of his son. This is also a story of Sikh culture and a celebration of one of its most revered ceremonies - Dastar Bandi. Educators will also find the book helpful in their teaching, as it contains a special multicultural essay which explains the significance behind the wearing of a turban.

*Shop Now*

**Thank you, Vahiguru**
Children’s Book

Told through the eyes of a mother, this simple bilingual story lays out all the good things about being an older sibling, and reminds new siblings that they are just as special as ever. The readers are also introduced to the Sikh naming ceremony. The comforting words and warm illustrations, will give the reader a glimpse into Sikh family life and culture.

*Shop Now*
Online Courses

**Anandu Sahib**

Anand Sahib course is based on the first five pauris (stanzas) and the fortieth pauri of the bani of Anand Sahib. The course will help students learn about the third Nanak, Guru Amardas Sahib. Each unit allows students to acquire essential lessons. The course is for students aged seven years and above.

[Free Download](#)

**Barah Maha**

Barah Maha course is based on the Bani of Barah Maha revealed by Guru Nanak Sahib and Guru Arjan Sahib. The course provides an opportunity for students to connect with Gurbani through Barah Maha. Each unit has easy objectives, followed by an activity to help trigger a thought, feeling, and reflection. The course is for students aged eleven and above.

[Free Download](#)

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Education Resources

**Getting to Know Guru Nanak Sahib**

Getting To Know Guru Nanak Sahib, E-book introduces students to Guru Nanak Sahib and helps them develop a fundamental knowledge base through Sakhis (witnessed-narratives) and other activities. The lesson plans provide questions to open up a dialog with the students, and the exercises give them an opportunity for self-exploration and self-reflection. This resource is for students between the ages of four and ten.

[Free Download](#)

**Getting to Know Guru Granth Sahib**

The summer curriculum is dedicated to learning the history and profound wisdom of Guru Granth Sahib. Each lesson plan has been thoughtfully constructed to encourage, engage, strengthen future generations’ curious minds, and provide a greater understanding of the Guru Granth Sahib. The curriculum is for students between the ages of seven and fifteen.

[Free Download](#)
Education Resources

Seva

The Seva educational unit explores the concept of Seva in light of Gurbani–Wisdom, Tavarikh–History, and Rahit–Lifestyle. Each lesson plan is designed for 1–5 days of learning and will produce an impact that lasts a lifetime. This unit is designed for students between the ages of five and ten.

Free Download

Sojhi

A comprehensive Gurmat based curriculum called Sojhi; in the Panjabi language, ‘Sojhi’ means ‘insight.’ The Curriculum is oriented around the goal of developing insights to inspire a Guru-centered life. Each grade is divided into two core curriculum: Boli (Language Arts) and Virsa (Sikh History). Download printable worksheets, lesson plans, and power-points.

Free Download