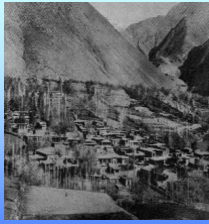


Bahá'u'llah

Mirza Husayn Ali Nuri was born in Persia in 1817. He later took the title Baha'u'llah, which means the Glory of God. His father was an important minister in the Persian government. In the year 1844 he became a follower of the Bab.



The Village of Achih near Tehran where Baha'u'llah once lived.



Straightforward information. Information to the left of picture should be copied into workbooks by students.

As the son of a government minister it was expected that he would follow his father and go on to develop a career in the political establishment of Persia.

Baha'u'llah showed no interest in this, instead he turned his attention to charitable works and helping the poor of the country.



Slide 2

Straight forward information. Information regarding Baha'u'llah in the second paragraph should be copied by students.

During 1852 when the attacks on the followers of the Bab were at there height Baha'u'llah was arrested and imprisoned in the Siyah-Chal an underground prison in Tehran the capital of Persia.

The prison was known as the 'Black Pit' and had the reputation as being one of the worst in Persia.

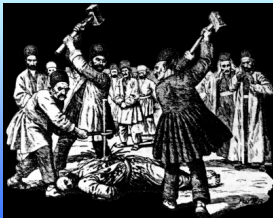
Imprisoned with Baha'u'llah were many other Babis, all were chained to the walls.



Slide 3

Straight forward information. Students should copy the name of the prison and where it was into their workbooks.

Every day the guards would randomly select some of Baha'u'llah's fellow prisoners for execution.



Slide 4

Straight forward information.

Slide 1

During the Bab's lifetime he promised that God would send a messenger who would bring peace and justice to the world.

While Baha'u'llah was a prisoner in the Black Pit he became aware that he was that Promised Messenger, later he wrote about the experience.



"While engulfed in tribulations I heard a most wondrous, a most sweet voice, calling above my head. Turning my face, I beheld a maidensuspended in the air before me....."

Pointing with her finger unto my head, she addressed all who are in heaven and all who are on earth, saying: By God! This is the Best-Beloved of the worlds..... This is the Beauty of God amongst you.....if ye be of them that perceive."



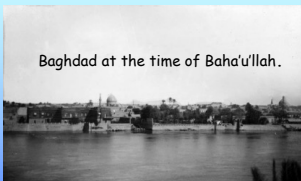
Many of Baha'u'llah's fellow prisoners had been killed, the authorities, however were reluctant to kill the son of a government official or leave him to die in prison. The Persian Government decided to ask for the assistance of the Ottoman Empire to send him into exile.

Baha'u'llah went on to spend the rest of his life as an exile and a prisoner, he and his family were moved from country to country. The first place of exile was to the city of Baghdad in Iraq. Baha'u'llah was continually spied upon by the Persian government.



Baha'u'llah had been in Baghdad for ten years. Over those years he became very popular, he was respected for his knowledge and wisdom. People often sought out his advice and help.

Baghdad at the time of Baha'u'llah.



The Persian government feared that his popularity would spread and would re-ignite popular enthusiasm in Persia for the Babi religion, the Government demanded that the Ottoman Empire send him and his family further from his homeland.



Slide 5

Straight forward information.

Slide 6

Question. Does this sound like a normal experience?

How would you describe this kind of event?

Slide 7

Find out what the 'Ottoman Empire means.

Students should make their own copy of the exile of Baha'u'llah as they progress over the next few slides.

[Map supplied at the end of this unit]

Slide 8

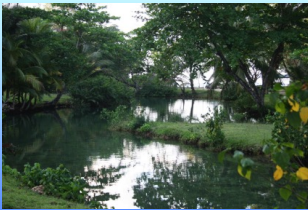
Straight forward information.

Info for student's map.

In April 1863, before being expelled from Baghdad to Constantinople, now known as Istanbul, Baha'u'llah camped with some of his companions in the Ridvan gardens on the banks of the river Tigris.



During those twelve days spent in the gardens Baha'u'llah told his companions that he was that Promised Messenger foretold by the Bab.



Baha'is now celebrate those twelve days as the Ridvan Festival which marks the start of their religion.
Baha'u'llah said of this time...



"The divine springtime is come, O Most Exalted Pen, for the festival of the All-Merciful is fast approaching..... This is the day whereon the unseen world crieth out, great is thy blessedness, O earth, for thou has been made the foot-stool of thy God..... This is the day whereon every sweet smelling thing hath derived its fragrance from the smell of my garment....."



Baha'u'llah and his family were exiled from Tehran to Baghdad. Then to Constantinople, now known as Istanbul, on to Adrianople and finally to Akka in Palestine.



Slide 9

Straight forward information.

This information should be copied into workbook.

Info for students map.

Slide 10

This should be copied into student workbooks.

How do you think his companions felt when they were told this?

Slide 11

Straight forward information.

Discussion what do you think this means?

Slide 12

Check on students maps to see if they have managed to complete it properly.

Whilst in exile in Adrianople, Baha'u'llah wrote to some of the world leaders. He requested that they accept his message. He further encouraged them to work together, to settle their disputes and concentrate on the improvement of the world and its peoples, rather than accumulating their own wealth.



Slide 13

Straight forward information.

Letters were sent to.....

Pope Pius IX.
Emperor Napoleon III of France.
Czar Alexander II of Russia.
King Wilhelm I of Prussia.
Queen Victoria of Great Britain.
Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria-Hungary.
Sultan Abdu'l-Aziz of the Ottoman Empire.
Nasiri'd-Din Shah of the Persian Empire.



Slide 14

Straight forward information.

"O Rulers of earth! Be reconciled among yourselves, that ye may need no more armaments save in a measure to safeguard your territories....."

"Know ye that the poor are the trust of God in your midst. Watch that ye betray not His trust, that ye deal not unjustly with them....."



Slide 15

Read through...

1. Look at the verse that starts

"O Kings of the earth! and finishes with, that which ye choose for yourselves....."

2. Can you think of something happening in today's world where this idea might or should be applied?

Slide 16

The following are extracts from what was written;

"O concourse of kings! Follow, therefore, that which I speak unto you, and hearken unto it with your hearts, and be not of such as have turned aside....."

"O Kings of the earth! We see you increasing every year your expenditure, and laying the burden on your subjects.....Do not rob them to rear palaces for yourselves; nay rather choose for them that which ye choose for yourselves....."



Students to translate these words into modern English.

What do you think of these ideas?

Remember to answer in sentences

and give reasons to support your answers.

[An example is given below]

"O Kings of the earth! We see you increasing every year your expenditure, and laying the burden on your subjects.....Do not rob them to rear palaces for yourselves; nay rather choose for them that which ye choose for yourselves....."

Leaders of the world! We see you increasing every year the money you spend, and taxing the earnings of the ordinary people and ignoring their basic needs Do not take what little they have to support your own extravagant life style. You should be helping them to have a fair and just share of what you would want for yourselves.

It is recorded that the only leader to answer Baha'u'llah with any respect was Queen Victoria.



Queen Victoria

Pope Pius IX

Emperor Napoleon

King Wilhelm I

Nasir al-Din Shah

Emperor Franz Joseph

Sultan Abdul Aziz

Czar Alexander II

Slide 17

Straight forward information.

Queen Victoria's family went on to become the most prominent royal family in the world.

The others? Some were assassinated, some were murdered in revolutions, The rest? Their families have vanished from history,



Queen Victoria's grand-daughter, Queen Marie of Romania became a Baha'i.



Slide 18

Straight forward information.

Discussion. Could there possibly be any relationship between Queen Victoria's politeness and her Grand Daughter becoming a Baha'i?

[Look what happened to the others and their families.]

Bahá'u'llah arrived in his last place of exile, Akka, in August 1868. Akka was seen by the Ottoman Empire as the 'end of the world', it was a desolate, filthy disease ridden city, there was no running water and the air was described as so foul that if a bird flew over it would fall out of the sky.



The hope of the authorities was that Bahá'u'llah and his companions would die from one of the many diseases that were common in Akka.

Slide 19

Straight forward information.

Students should note the final place of exile in their workbooks.

At the age of twenty seven he gave up a life of comfort within Persia.

He became a champion for justice, equality and promoted the unity of mankind.

His reward for supporting and encouraging these ideas was a life of oppression, poverty, exile and imprisonment.

Slide 20

Discussion. Bottom two paragraphs. He became a champion for justice, equality and promoted the unity of mankind.

His reward for supporting and encouraging these ideas was a life of oppression, poverty, exile and imprisonment



In 1890 Edward Granville Browne, a professor from Cambridge University, had witnessed the events in Persia during the Bab's lifetime, travelled to Palestine to meet with Bahá'u'llah.

Slide 21

Straight forward information.

Reminder that this is the same person who reported on, and studied the Babis in Persia during the Bab's life.



Professor Browne and Bahá'u'llah met in this room.

Slide 22

The room was not like this at the time of the visit. It has been restored and this is a recent photograph. It is one of the places that Bahá'í pilgrims visit.

Edward Granville Browne made notes of the meeting.

"The face of whom I gazed I can never forget, though I cannot describe it. Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul, power and authority sat on that ample brow..... No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before him..... one who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain"

Browne was the only known westerner who met with Baha'u'llah, he reported some of the conversation that they had.



Slide 23

Straight forward information.

Discussion. What do think Granville Browne thought of Baha'u'llah?

A mild dignified voice bade me be seated, and then continued.....

"Praise be to God that thou has attained..... Thou has come to see a prisoner and an exile..... We desire but the good of this world and the happiness of the nations, yet they deem us a stirrer up of strife and sedition worthy of bondage and banishment..... These strife's and this bloodshed and discord must cease, and all men become as one kindred and one family..... Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country, let him glory in this, that he loves his kind"



Slide 24

Straight forward information.

'Let not a man glory in this, that he loves his country, let him glory in this, that he loves his kind'

What do you think this last paragraph could mean? What could it lead to?



Baha'u'llah spent most of his seventy-four years as a prisoner.
He died on the 29th May 1892 in the mansion of Bahji in Palestine.



Slide 25

Straight forward information.

Baha'u'llah's remains are buried within this room beside the mansion.
His shrine is considered by Baha'is to be the holiest spot on earth.



Slide 26

Straight forward information.

Bahá'u'llah died on the 29th of May 1892. He had spent forty years of his life as a prisoner and an exile. In 1844 he gave up his right to a life of comfort and ease as a government official and voluntarily entered into a life of poverty.

Like millions throughout the world today, Baha'u'llah knew what it was like to suffer the complete loss of any human rights. He lost his home and all his possessions and along with his family was forced to live in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions.



Slide 27

Like millions throughout the world today, Baha'u'llah knew what it was like to suffer the complete loss of any human rights. He lost his home and all his possessions and along with his family was forced to live in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions.

Do you know of any places in the world where people live like this and do you know why?

Baha'u'llah wrote about the need for society to look after the poor and disadvantaged of this world and to guard against injustice, he clearly states;

"The best beloved of all things in My sight is Justice..."

Baha'u'llah was writing from experience, he cared deeply about all these issues. He wrote to the rulers of the world asking them to turn their attentions to the wider society, to reduce their spending on themselves and weapons and to concentrate on the improvement of the people under their rule.

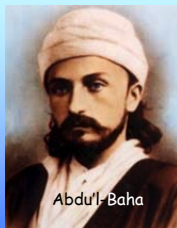


Slide 28

Discussion.

What is Justice?

Is it important?



Abdu'l-Baha

Baha'u'llah appointed his son Abdu'l-Baha to become the interpreter of his message and to lead the new religion forward into the twentieth century. Abdu'l-Baha was to spend the rest of his life promoting his fathers ideas and teachings.



Slide 29

Straight forward information.

And an introduction to the next unit.

The Seven Candles of Unity,
a look at the life of Abdu'l-Baha

Map of the Middle East

