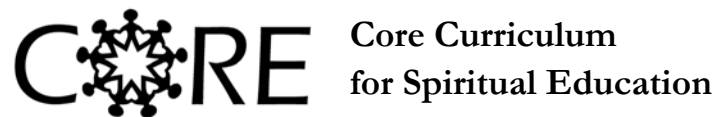


Lesson Planning Guide

*The Principle
of Oneness*

*The Oneness of Humanity
Race Unity*

Level Two



Acknowledgments

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National Bahá'í Education Task Force, July 2003



Prepared by the National Bahá'í Education Task Force
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TOPIC: FOR THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD

ACTIVITY: ALL-EMBRACING LOVE

ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVE: To demonstrate a desire to seek understanding of the various cultures of the world

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Direct use of the Bahá'í sacred writings; Use of consultation; Use of art; Use of independent investigation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 60 MIN. + VISITS TO OTHERS OUTSIDE CLASS

Materials Needed:

- Chart paper and markers or chalkboard and chalk
- Copies of Resource Page 20 for each student
- Nice paper for each student
- Art supplies

1. Remind the students of the following statement of 'Abdu'l-Bahá:

The essence of Bahá'u'lláh's Teaching is all-embracing love, for love includeth every excellence of humankind. It causeth every soul to go forward.

'Abdu'l-Bahá, Selections from the Writings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, p. 71

2. Remind them also of each person's capacity to recognize the truth of the oneness and wholeness of the entire human family. Invite the students to think about all the people they know, Bahá'ís and others, of every age. Encourage them to think of friends, family members, community members, and people from other places. Discuss the following questions and list students' responses on chart paper or chalkboard:

- Who knows people from countries other than our own? What are these countries?
- Who has visited other countries? Which countries?
- As we think about the people we know in other lands, or from other countries, what happy thoughts or memories come to mind? What stories can we share?
- As we think about the people we know in other lands or from other countries, what have we noticed is especially excellent about those people? Are there special qualities of character or virtues that seem especially common in the people? Are there cultural or

historic treasures that are renowned? Are there foods which are unique and wonderful? Do the people have songs or stories that are especially beautiful or inspiring or entertaining? What other things do we admire about the country or people?

3. After concluding this short discussion, invite each student to think of one or more of the people that they know who are from other countries or who have visited another country. Explain that our goal is to learn from these people. As a class, review the questions on Resource Page 20 that the students may use to learn from the people that they know. Add additional questions if desired. Assist each student to identify at least one individual that he or she could visit for the purpose of asking these questions. This activity will be especially meaningful if the individuals visited are from different cultural, economic, educational, or social backgrounds from the students' own backgrounds.
4. During or after class, assist the students as needed to contact these individuals to arrange the students' visits. Be sure that all visits take place with the parents' permission. The parents may be encouraged to accompany students on these visits.

- Please also encourage the students to ask the individuals if they have photographs or other materials that they would be willing to loan to the student to share with the class. Remind the students to take notes so that they will be able to share the results of their interviews with the class.
- Rehearse courteous greetings, respectful questioning, and showing appreciation to the people the students will visit.
- Then encourage the students each to create a greeting card to take as a gift to the individuals they interview. Invite them to include one of their favorite quotations on the card, as listed below or studied previously in this unit.

The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens.

Bahá'u'lláh, *Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 167

The whole earth is one home, and all peoples, did they but know it, are bathed in the oneness of God's mercy.

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in London*, p. 38

ACTIVITY: SHARING AN ALL-EMBRACING LOVE

ELOQUENT SPEECH OBJECTIVE: To demonstrate a desire to seek understanding of the various cultures of the world

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND LEARNING TOOLS: Use of peer teaching; Use of independent investigation

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ACTIVITY: 30 MIN. OR MORE, DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF STUDENT REPORTS

Materials Needed:

- Reports from student interviews (see previous activity)
- Chart paper and markers
- Large wall map of the world
- World atlases, if available
- Stickers
- Note paper and pens

- Invite the students to share the results of their interviews including any photographs or other items that the person was willing to share with the class. Summarize the information from the interviews on chart paper.
- Use a map, globe or atlas to locate the countries mentioned in the interviews. Use stickers to mark these countries on the map, adding to the countries already indicated if the activity “The Procession of Nations” has been previously completed by the class.
- Using chart paper, invite the class to compose a short letter of appreciation to the people interviewed. Encourage the students to copy this letter to send to the individuals they interviewed. Invite the entire class to sign each letter, as all benefited from the experience. If students borrowed photographs or other materials, remind them to return them to their friends.

All-Embracing Love

Please share the following quotation:

“The essence of Bahá’u’lláh’s Teaching is all-embracing love, for love includeth every excellence of humankind. It causeth every soul to go forward.”

‘Abdu’l-Bahá, *Selections from the Writings of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá*, p. 71

Then ask these questions:

1. Do you know people from countries other than our own? What are these countries?

2. Have you visited other countries? Which countries?

3. As you think about the people you know in other lands, or from other countries, what happy thoughts or memories come to mind? What stories can you share?

4. As you think about the people we know in other lands or from other countries, what have you noticed is especially ‘excellent’ about those people? Are there special qualities of character or virtues that seem especially common in the people? Are there cultural or historic treasures that are renowned? Are there foods that are unique and wonderful? Do the people have songs or stories that are especially beautiful or inspiring or entertaining? What other things do you admire about the country or people?

5. Other questions.

6. Please thank the person for sharing time and memories with you.