

LESSON PLANS

Understanding Vesak and Its Teachings.



GRADE LEVEL	A2 - B1
CLIL SUBJECT	Cultural Studies
OBJECTIVE	• Students will understand the cultural significance of Vesak. • They will explore the core teachings of Vesak related to kindness, compassion, and enlightenment. • They will create an art project inspired by the themes of Vesak.
MATERIALS NEEDED	• Drawing paper or cardstock • Markers, coloured pencils, or paints • Example images of Vesak celebrations (optional) • Sticky notes or small pieces of paper • Whiteboard and markers
LESSON DURATION	60 minutes



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LESSON PROCEDURE

1. INTRODUCTION (10 minutes)

- Start with a brief introduction to Vesak, explaining that it is a major cultural celebration in many parts of Asia, particularly in Buddhist communities.
- Explain that Vesak commemorates significant events in the life of the Buddha, including his birth, enlightenment, and passing away, but the focus of the lesson will be on the values and themes celebrated during Vesak, such as kindness, compassion, and enlightenment.
- Show images or a short video clip of Vesak celebrations to provide visual context.

2. COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY: VALUES MURAL (40 minutes)

- Divide students into small groups and give each group a stack of sticky notes or small pieces of paper and pens/pencils.
- Write the words "Kindness," "Compassion," and "Enlightenment" on the whiteboard.
- Discuss each of these values with the students, asking them what they think these words mean and how they can be applied in everyday life.
- Assign each group one of the three values: Kindness, Compassion, or Enlightenment.
- Ask each group to brainstorm and write down or draw actions, phrases, or quotes that represent their assigned value on the sticky notes or pieces of paper.
- Have a large poster board displayed in the classroom. Divide it into three sections, labelled with "Kindness," "Compassion," and "Enlightenment."
- Once the groups have written down their ideas, have them come up to the board and place their sticky notes or pieces of paper in the appropriate sections.
- As a class, review the contributions and discuss how these actions and phrases can be applied in their daily lives and in the school community.

Here are some sentence stems to guide students during the collaborative activity:

1. "One way we can show kindness is..."
2. "A kind action we can take is..."
3. "An example of enlightenment is when..."
4. "We can spread kindness by..."
5. "Compassion looks like..."
6. "Enlightenment means..."
7. "A kind thing we can do for others is..."
8. "We can show compassion by..."
9. "Enlightenment is important because..."
10. "We can bring more kindness into the world by..."

4. REFLECTION AND SHARING (10 minutes)

- What did your group write for your value (Kindness, Compassion, or Enlightenment)?
- Why did you choose those actions or phrases?
- Which idea from the mural do you think is the most important? Why?
- How can we practise these values at school or at home?
- How can our school be a better place if everyone practises Kindness/Compassion/Enlightenment?

CONCLUSION	• Summarise the main points of the lesson, emphasising the importance of the values associated with Vesak and how they can positively impact our lives. • Reinforce the idea that cultural celebrations like Vesak offer valuable lessons that transcend religious boundaries and can be appreciated by everyone.
ASSESSMENT	• Assess students based on their participation in discussions, their contributions to the group activity, and their ability to articulate the values and actions represented in the mural.
EXTENSION	Organise a "Kindness Campaign" in which students brainstorm and implement simple acts of kindness within the school. This could include creating kindness cards, starting a gratitude wall, or organising a community service project. This activity reinforces the value of kindness discussed during the lesson and encourages students to put it into practice.