

Lesson Description

Teacher: Elizabeth Humphries

Lesson: A Hindu empire or a Buddhist empire?

Course: 6th grade Ancient Civilizations

Unit: Empires and Ideas

Objectives:

1. Academic learning objectives

Students will be able to identify advantages and disadvantages of Hinduism and Buddhism as systems to control/organize a large group of people

Students will be able to argue which religion is the better religion for ruling an empire

2. Social/moral development objectives (specify domain and developmental objectives)

Do people respond better to strict control (such as the caste system) or to being taught correct ways of behavior? What types of social conventions are most effective?

Lesson Summary

Prior to this lesson, students have been introduced to the basic beliefs of Buddhism and Hinduism, as well as to the Hindu caste system and to the edicts of Buddhist emperor Ashoka. For homework the night before, students have been asked to brainstorm advantages and disadvantages of Hinduism and Buddhism for ruling an empire.

In this Space2cre8 forum, students will argue which religion they would choose to spread if they were a conquering emperor.

Procedure

1. (5 mins) Do Now: What advantages and disadvantages would Hinduism and Buddhism have for ruling an empire? List examples from your homework chart.
2. (2 mins) Mindful Minute (a social-emotional exercise we do each day)
3. (7 mins) Create class version of advantages/disadvantages chart
4. (5 mins) Review expectations for Space2cre8 posts
5. (5 mins) Move to computer lab/pass out laptops and have students follow provided directions for logging in to Space2cre8 and accessing the Hindu/Buddhist empire forum
6. (21 mins) Students read and respond to posts on the Space2cre8 forum. The overarching prompt:

Imagine you are a powerful conqueror 🤖. You are deciding which religion to spread throughout your empire - Hinduism, or Buddhism. Which would you choose?

Some questions to consider...

- 1) Which system would be more effective for controlling people? Why?
- 2) Which system would the conquered people be more likely to accept? Why?
- 3) Is one of the religions fairer than the other? How so? Should this affect your decision as an emperor? Why or why not?

**** The Space2Cre8 portion of this class may be modified to accommodate small group transactive discourse.****

Use the # to show which religion you are arguing for in your post (#Hinduism or #Buddhism) and use the @ to show if you are replying to a classmate.

7. (5 mins) Shut down computers, pass back laptops/return to classroom from computer lab

8. (5 mins) Exit Question: Based on the forum today, which religion do you think would be better for ruling an empire? Give 3 reasons why.

Managing learning Environment

In the classroom, students are seated in pairs, facing the front of the room. Stamp sheets are passed to students at the beginning of class, used for the Do Now and Exit Question, and collected at the end of the period.

In the computer lab, students sit in three rows all facing a white board (where directions are posted)

Instructional Materials

Describe or attach materials employed in the lesson:

Previous night's homework chart – attached (back of Handout 11)

All other materials are on the Space2cre8 forum