

A BAHÁ'Í COMPANION FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

Brilliant Star

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200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE BIRTH OF THE BÁB

CONNECT TO
YOUR NOBLE SPIRIT

Light of Faith

Brilliant Star

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Brilliant Star empowers kids to explore their roles as world citizens. Inspired by the principles of peace and unity in the Bahá'í Faith, we encourage readers to use their virtues to make the world a better place.

The Bahá'í Faith is the second most widespread religion in the world, with over five million Bahá'ís. It was founded by the Prophet Bahá'u'lláh ("Glory of God" in Arabic) in 1863. Bahá'u'lláh taught that all people are part of one human family, and all religions come from one God. Bahá'u'lláh's eldest son, 'Abdu'l-Bahá, interpreted His teachings and led the Bahá'í community after Bahá'u'lláh's passing.

Today, Bahá'ís work to bring love and justice to the world, and end prejudice and discrimination of all kinds.

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Lionhearts

Bábí heroes inspire us with lion-like courage.



DEAR FRIENDS,

About 200 years ago, something happened that would change the world. A Messenger of God was born in Persia (now Iran) in 1819. His name was the Báb, meaning “the Gate.” He taught that all religions come from one God. He prepared people for the coming of Bahá’u’lláh, Whose teachings would bring peace and unity.

The Messengers of the world’s religions are like rays of one sun, shining from the same source. Their teachings can inspire friends of all faiths to build communities with justice, love, and compassion.

In this issue of *Brilliant Star*, celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the Báb. Discover how each Messenger of God through the ages brings new light. Invite friends and family to explore the wonders of nature together. Brighten your path with a lantern craft from Nur. And get to know Dr. Moojan Momen, who’s dedicated to sharing Bahá’í history.

When we honor the truth in all faiths, humanity can be uplifted by the power of oneness.



Shrine of the Báb,
Haifa, Israel

LOVE, BRILLIANT STAR ☆



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Maya's MYSTERIES

GOD'S
CREATION
IS AMAZING!



"All the treasures of earth and heaven and everything between them are His, and His protection extendeth over all things." —The Báb

THE GIFT OF NATURE

Today I had an awesome nature walk with my friends! The sun was shining, and the air smelled like wildflowers. It reminded me that nature is a gift from God.

Many religions say that nature refreshes our spirits. It can also teach us virtues. For example, we can learn about perseverance from honeybees, which fly an estimated 55,000 miles (89,000 km) to make a pound

of honey! (And I thought *my* homework was tough!)

Religions also encourage us to care for our planet. We only have one Earth, and it's full of precious resources. You can help on your next hike by picking up trash, carrying a reusable water bottle, and not disturbing plants or animals.

How do you like to appreciate nature? Check out these activities and enjoy our wonderful world!

CREATION EXPLORATION

Invite friends and family to see how many of these activities you can do in two weeks. Add your own ideas, too.

Start Date: _____

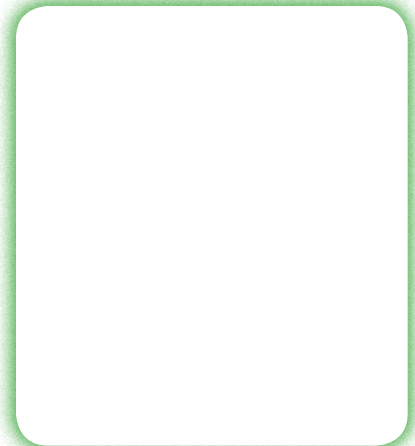
End Date: _____

- ☐ Count the dark rings on a tree stump to see how old it is. Each dark ring equals a year.
- ☐ Breathe mindfully and identify five different scents.
- ☐ Make leaf rubbings with crayons and paper. Use them to create a card for a friend.
- ☐ Spot three types of birds and find out what they're called.
- ☐ Investigate leaves, flowers, rocks, and tree bark with a magnifying glass.
- ☐ Collect flat, smooth rocks and paint them with words and designs that reflect virtues.
- ☐ Choose a nature item and write a poem or song about it.

- ☐ Build a fairy house out of twigs, leaves, stones, and flowers you find on the ground.
- ☐ Tell or write a story based on the creatures you see.
- ☐ Plant and water some seeds that are native to your area.
- ☐ What nature items can you find that show unity in diversity?

- ☐ What virtues are seen in a tree?

- ☐ Draw your favorite nature item:



- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____

- ☐ _____



Bee Kind

CHECK OUT
MY NEW
BEE-NOCLARS.



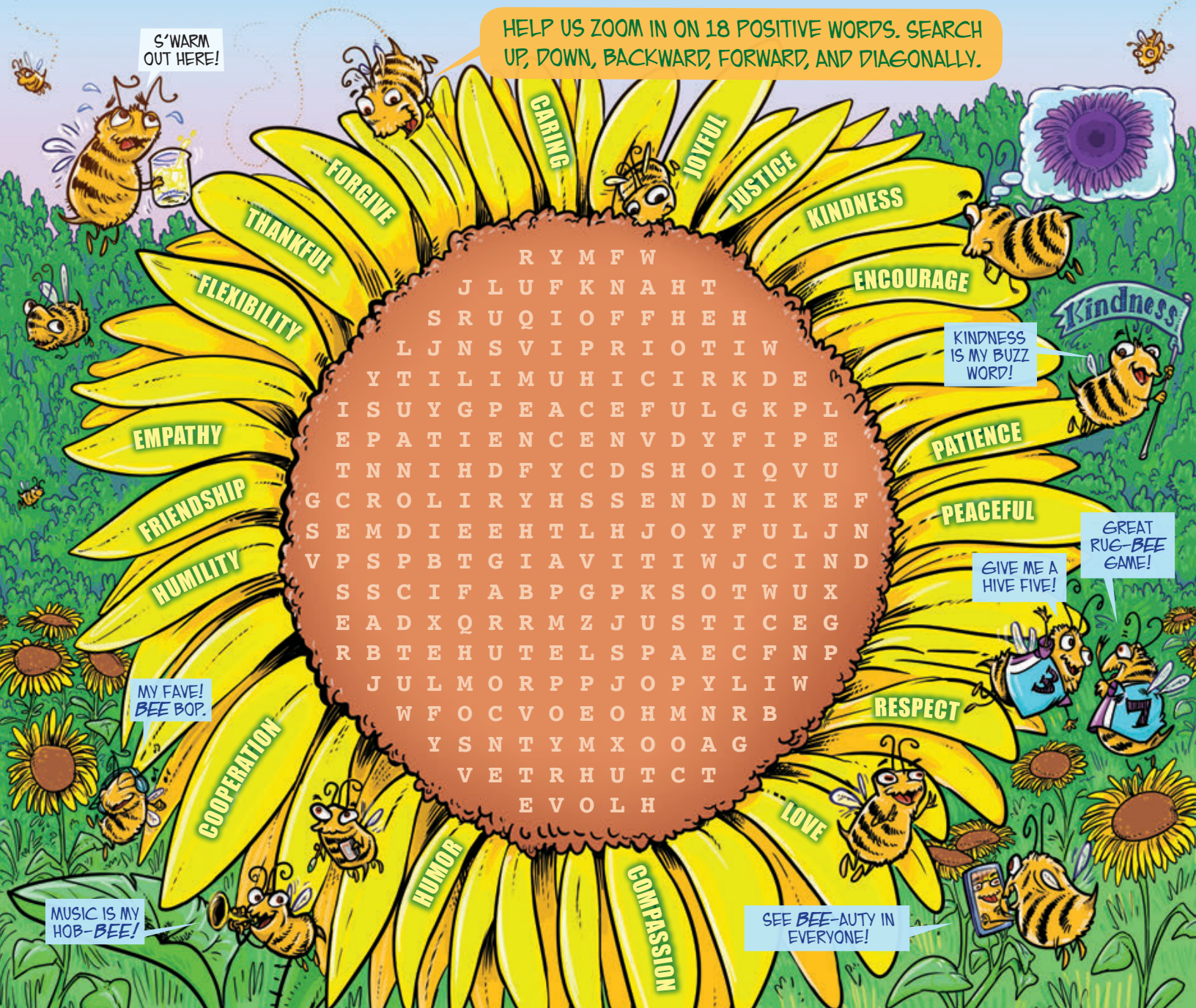
"They should see nothing but good in one another, hear nothing but praise of one another, and speak no word of one another save only to praise." —'Abdu'l-Bahá

Un-BEE-lievable! Along with flight, bees have the superpower of ultraviolet vision! Ultraviolet (UV) is a color BEE-yond purple that's normally invisible to humans. When we look at a sunflower, we see yellow petals. But to a bee's UV vision, there are rings of color, like a target leading them to nectar. It's like a filter helping them find flowers that provide food.

Though we can't see in UV like bees, we can develop other "filters." We can find what's important by focusing on people's positive qualities. All religions teach us to be kind, loving, and forgiving. When we emphasize the good in people, we encourage them to shine with even more joy and kindness. It helps create a more peaceful world—and that's a superpower!

S'WARM
OUT HERE!

HELP US ZOOM IN ON 18 POSITIVE WORDS. SEARCH
UP, DOWN, BACKWARD, FORWARD, AND DIAGONALLY.



MY FAVE!
BEE BOP.

KINDNESS
IS MY BUZZ
WORD!

GIVE ME A
HIVE FIVE!

GREAT
RUG-BEE
GAME!

SEE BEE-AUTY IN
EVERYONE!

The Life of the Báb

The highlighted
area marks the time
in which this story
takes place.

1819 October 20

Birth of the Báb
in Shíráz, Iran

1842 August

Marries Khadíjih Bagum

1843

Birth of their son,
Ahmad, who soon dies

1844 May 23

Declares Divine Mission
as Prophet-Founder of
the Bábí Faith

1844 December

Announces His station
while on pilgrimage in
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

1847 July

Imprisonment in the
fortress of Máh-Kú
(The Open Mountain)

1848 April 10

Transfer to the
fortress of Chihriq
(The Grievous
Mountain)

1848 July

Declares His mission
to leaders in Tabriz,
Iran, and is punished
with the bastinado

1850 July 9

The Báb is martyred
in Tabriz, Iran.

The cruel governor, Husayn Khán, wanted the Báb put in chains. He was angered by the Báb's declaration that He was the Promised One of Islam. Guards set out on horses to capture the Báb and bring Him from Búshíhr to Shíráz, Persia (now Iran). But before the guards reached Him, the Báb rode out to greet them, saying, "Here am I; do with Me as you please."

The commander of the guards admired the Báb and didn't want to arrest Him. He tried to ride past Him, but the Báb insisted that he follow his orders. Astonished, the commander dismounted his horse to kiss the Báb's stirrups and urge Him to escape. The Báb stayed firm. He continued to Shíráz with the guards following behind.

The Báb was placed under house arrest. He wasn't allowed visitors, but people couldn't stay away. Even the sháh sent his advisor, Vahíd, to meet the Báb and judge the truth of His claims.

In their meetings, the Báb answered complex spiritual questions while Vahíd listened in wonder. On his third visit, Vahíd was so overcome by the Báb that he couldn't stand up anymore. The Báb sat beside him, held his hand, and revealed verses that Vahíd had hoped to hear. He became a devoted Bábí.

The governor's jealousy grew. He told the chief of police to sneak into the home where the Báb was staying and arrest Him. He intended to kill the Báb that very night.

As the chief of police arrested the Báb, a strange commotion caught his attention. A line of mourners passed,



Historical engraving of Búshíhr, a city on the Persian Gulf, where the Báb lived after returning from His pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia.

weeping and carrying coffins. Panic spread as people ran through the streets, trying to escape a deadly disease sweeping through the city.

Unsure what to do with his prisoner, the chief brought the Báb to his home, where they found his son on the brink of death from the disease. Desperate, he threw himself at the Báb's feet, begged forgiveness, and asked Him to save his son.

The Báb washed His face for prayers and sent that same water to the child. Amazingly, after drinking it, the boy began to recover. The chief wrote to the governor, asking him to stop the attacks on the Báb.

The governor released the Báb, but insisted that He leave Shíráz immediately. In the summer of 1846, the Báb left His wife and mother in His uncle's care, assuring them of "God's all-encompassing love and protection."

Despite many challenges, the Báb continued sharing His message of unity, warming hearts and preparing people for the coming of Bahá'u'lláh.

Wings of Transformation

The amazing monarch caterpillar can grow 2,000 times its size as it transforms from an egg into a butterfly. That's like a human baby growing up to weigh seven tons!

Like caterpillars, people go through big physical changes. We also transform spiritually as we learn to use our virtues and overcome challenges.

There are two sides of our spirits described in the Bahá'í writings—our higher and lower nature. Our higher nature is made up of virtues, such as honesty and patience. Our lower nature is our negative qualities. Sometimes our lower nature craves things that aren't good for us, like playing video games for too long when we need to do homework. Or we may get impatient with a sibling when we're in a bad mood.

If you're struggling to practice virtues, ask yourself what your hero or role model might do. Saying prayers can guide your spirit, too. We all have the power to transform and wing our way toward being our best self.

FILL IN THE QUALITIES
OF THESE SPIRITUAL
BUTTERFLIES.

THEN MATCH EACH ONE TO THE CATERPILLAR IT CAN HELP TRANSFORM.



**POSITIVE
POLLY**

TUTUFU
TALIA

MOTIVATED
MOVA



GI I G
GUS

PA IEN
PURDO

CONTONT
CAYLA

Bahá'u'lláh's Life: Mission of Peace

Two Messengers of God

The Life of Bahá'u'lláh

The highlighted
area marks the time
in which this story
takes place.

1817 November 12

Birth of Bahá'u'lláh
in Tihrán, Iran

1844

Recognizes the Báb as
a new Messenger of God

1852

Imprisonment in the
"Black Pit" of Tihrán

1853–1863

Exile in Baghdád, Iraq.
From 1854–1856, He
goes into the mountains
to pray in solitude.

1863 April

Declares Divine Mission
as Prophet-Founder
of the Bahá'í Faith

1863–1868

Exile in Constantinople
(Istanbul), then Adrianople
(Edirne), Turkey. Begins
writing letters to kings
and rulers in 1867,
urging world unity

1868

Last exile, to prison-
city of 'Akká, Israel

1877

Finally free to live in
countryside homes
of Mazra'ih and then
Bahjí, outside 'Akká

1892 May 29

Bahá'u'lláh passes
away at Bahjí.

It's incredible to think about meeting a Messenger of God, but can you imagine meeting two? The Báb and Bahá'u'lláh are the only Messengers of God known to have lived at the same time in history. Bahá'u'lláh was a devoted follower of the Báb. They wrote to each other, but never met in person.

In 1844, the Báb gave Mullá Husayn, the first person to believe in Him, a special mission. The Báb asked him to travel through Persia (now Iran) and announce that the Promised One of Islam had come. He assured Mullá Husayn that he would find a "Mystery" of incredible holiness.

In Tihrán, Mullá Husayn heard about Bahá'u'lláh, Who was then a nobleman known as Mírzá Husayn-'Alí. A student who knew Him said He was kind, loving, and a friend to the poor. Mullá Husayn asked the student to deliver a scroll of the Báb's writings to Bahá'u'lláh.

When Bahá'u'lláh read the scroll, He immediately recognized the station of the Báb as a Messenger of God. He said, "Whoso believes in the Qur'án . . . and yet hesitates . . . to admit that these soul-stirring words are endowed with the same regenerating power, has most assuredly erred in his judgment . . ."

To express His thanks, Bahá'u'lláh sent Mullá Husayn a package of tea and Russian sugar, which were rare in Persia at the time. Mullá Husayn kissed the gift, thrilled to hear that Bahá'u'lláh had accepted the Báb.

Soon Bahá'u'lláh traveled to His family's home in the province of Mázindarán to share the Báb's teachings.



In the village of Takur, in the Mázindarán province, Bahá'u'lláh welcomed many people into His home to learn about the teachings of the Báb.

Attracted by Bahá'u'lláh's purity, dignity, and eloquence, people flocked to His home. Many became Bábís. Bahá'u'lláh said, "Whosoever has inclined his ear to this Message has felt its irresistible power, and has been transformed by the potency of its grace."

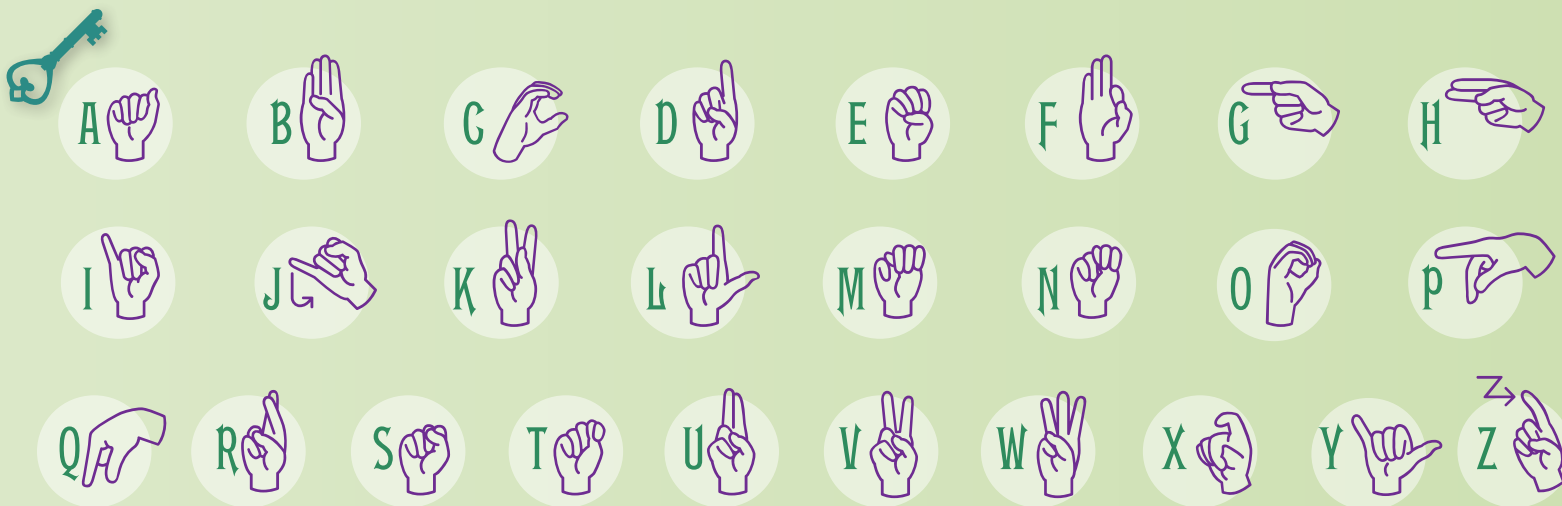
Mullá Husayn wrote to the Báb about Bahá'u'lláh and the many people who had become Bábís. This letter cheered the Báb and filled Him with hope. He felt sure that if anything should happen to Him, Bahá'u'lláh would guide His Faith.

Toward the end of His life, the Báb sent His writings, pen case, seals, and rings to Bahá'u'lláh. After the Báb was martyred in 1850, Bahá'u'lláh led the Bábí community. In 1863, He declared that He was the Messenger of God promised by the Báb.

Bahá'u'lláh taught that all religions come from the same God, and that we are all part of one family. His teachings encourage us to use our virtues, such as service, justice, and equality, to help bring peace and unity to the world.

"I have set my face towards Thy Cause, believing in Thy oneness,
acknowledging Thy unity . . ." —Bahá'u'lláh

Use the key to decode a quote from Bahá'u'lláh, written in American Sign Language fingerspelling.



RILEY'S RAINFOREST



"Send down... from the clouds of Thy mercy the rains of Thy healing..."

—Bahá'u'lláh

Explore & Soar: Get Inspired

Breathing can be inspiring! To "inspire" means to inhale or to fill with positive motivation. Try these practices to do both.



☐ Sit upright with eyes closed. Breathe in, pulling love into your heart and body. Breathe out, sending that love to a friend.

☐ Lie flat with one hand on your belly and one on your chest. Imagine a balloon in a calm color and feel your stomach rise, filling the balloon as you inhale for four seconds. Then let the air out, exhaling for four seconds.



☐ Stand with feet about hip-width apart, hands clasped in front of you. Breathe in, raising hands above your head. Then breathe out and quickly drop hands down between your legs, like chopping wood for a campfire.

Peaceful Practices

Prayer and meditation can uplift your soul. These spiritual practices can also help your mind and body.

Prayer is a time to talk to God, while meditation is reflection with our spirit. For example, in prayer, we may ask for guidance or offer thanks. During meditation, we quiet our thoughts and listen.

Both practices can boost health by releasing stress and anxiety. Some studies find that when we see God as a source of comfort, peaceful feelings from prayer may improve our mood and help ease sadness or worry. Meditation may increase self-control, boost creativity, and improve sleep. Even two minutes of silence can help refresh the brain and body.

The benefits are so strong that some schools offer meditation in class. When students have quiet

moments in their day, they tend to be less anxious, concentrate longer, and get into fewer arguments. A few deep breaths before answering a tough question or taking a test can help calm you. Or, if you're feeling upset, close your eyes and imagine a peaceful place.

Some practices combine meditation and breathing with movement. Yoga has roots in Hinduism and Buddhism. Tai chi, karate, and other martial arts harmonize the mind and body. These practices may improve strength, flexibility, balance, and inner peace.

If you want to soothe your mind, body, *and* spirit, try one of these tools and see what it does for you.

Curiosity Canopy



Some meditation can actually help you be kinder! Metta, or meditation on loving-kindness, is often used by Buddhists. It increases positive feelings and can help people be more compassionate and forgiving with themselves and others. The more they practice, the more loving they feel.

Divine Sunshine

On a summer day, you enjoy the sun's warmth and light. The sun helps all creatures. It fuels plants and trees, which give us oxygen and food. You can feel the sun, but it's impossible to truly comprehend it. It's a ball of gas so massive that 1.3 million Earths could fit inside of it! Just as the sun is a mystery, God's essence is unknowable.

Our minds can grasp some things about God through the qualities of His Messengers, such as Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh. We can also see God's attributes in people when they show love and other virtues.

When we take in spiritual nourishment from God, we can make fruitful contributions to the world.

At this farm stand, fill in the letters to find ways to build true friendships with people of all faiths.

___ MI ___ E AND GREET
PEOPLE OF ALL FAITHS
WITH FRIENDLINESS.

___ EA ___ N ABOUT
THE TEACHINGS OF
VARIOUS RELIGIONS.

BE ___ IND AND
RESPECT THE BELIEFS
AND PRACTICES OF
OTHER FAITHS.

1 LO ___ IN ___ LEMON

2 C ___ RIO ___ S KALE

3 CO ___ PA ___ IONA ___ E CARROT

TALK ABOUT B ___ LI ___ FS,
INTERESTS, OR HOBBIES
YOU HAVE IN COMMON.

STICK UP FOR ___ RIE ___ DS
WHO ARE BULLIED ABOUT
FAITH, OR TELL AN ADULT.

LOOK FOR NOBLE
Q ___ A ___ ITI ___ S
IN EVERYONE.

5 L ___ S ___ EN ___ NG LETTUCE

6 CO ___ RA ___ EO ___ S KIWI

BE HU ___ B ___ E
ABOUT YOUR
BELIEFS, AND
DON'T PUSH THEM
ON OTHERS.

4 PE ___ CEP ___ I ___ E PEAR

CE ___ E ___ RATE UNITY
WITH INTERFAITH EVENTS
IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

APPRECIATE THE
___ IVE ___ SI ___ Y
THAT MAKES OUR
WORLD BEAUTIFUL.

7 MO ___ ES ___ MANGO

8 WATERMELON OF W ___ N ___ ER

9 SU ___ ORTI ___ E STARFRUIT

Spiritual Springtime

During the winter, nature is frozen and quiet. Hibernating animals protect themselves by snuggling into dark caves or dens and falling into a deep sleep. They slow down their breathing and heart rates. When spring comes, the sun shines, leaves sprout, and flowers perfume the air. Nature wakes up to new life.

In a similar way, the history of the world has spiritual seasons. Through the ages, humanity has gone dormant when people don't use their virtues and noble qualities.

The world is dark, and people lose hope. Then, like the arrival of spring, God sends a new Messenger.

When the Báb declared that He was God's Messenger, it was like rays of sunshine warming Earth. People's spirits were energized by His teachings of love and unity. He said that the next Messenger would bring even more light to the world.

Today, people everywhere continue to be awakened and invigorated by sincerely exploring God's teachings.



EXPLORE AND PROTECT THE EARTH AND ITS CREATURES

"All the members of this endless universe are linked one to another." —Bahá'í Writings

WE
ARE
ONE

EARTH-SAVING TIP

Fresh Fruit

Trees filter out air and water pollution, absorb carbon dioxide, and provide homes and food for animals. Plant a fruit tree in your yard, and *you* can eat the food too.

WOW, REALLY?

Earth has about three trillion trees. It might sound like a lot, but 15 billion are cut down each year.

OUR CONNECTIONS



A series of satellites in NASA's and U.S. Geological Survey's Landsat program has monitored Earth for nearly 50 years. Landsat 7 and 8 are in orbit, 438 miles (705 km) above us, taking hundreds of images daily. Comparing images from long ago with current ones lets scientists see changes in water resources, agriculture, urban growth, deforestation, and more. This treasury of data helps scientists find ways to protect our one and only Earth.

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

Dr. Matthew Hansen, a geographer in Maryland, uses satellite images to monitor deforestation. Hansen and his team can detect forest changes fast enough to alert governments to illegal logging. He says, "We want data to be openly available so that all groups have the same sets of facts, and everyone can use these facts to manage their natural resources."



WHERE IN THE WORLD?



The Amazon, Earth's largest rainforest, is home to about 400 tribes who have amazing knowledge, including how to use plants as medicine. Their way of life needs protection from deforestation and climate change. *Unscramble the letters to see where half of the Amazon is located:*

ZABILR

AMAZING ANIMALS



With tails longer than their bodies and pouches to carry their young, these marsupials live in the rainforests of Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Australia. Many species are threatened by deforestation. *Fill in the blanks to find their name:*

TR KA GAR S



IN PROFESSOR PROWD'S LAIR...





WE... WE LOOKED MISERABLE.

WHY WOULD WE SERVE SUCH A SELFISH SCOUNDREL?

HE'S A PHONY, AND SO IS HIS GOLD!

FOOLS! MY GOLD IS REAL, AND IT'S ALL MINE! MONEY IS POWER! WHY WOULD I SHARE IT WITH YOU?

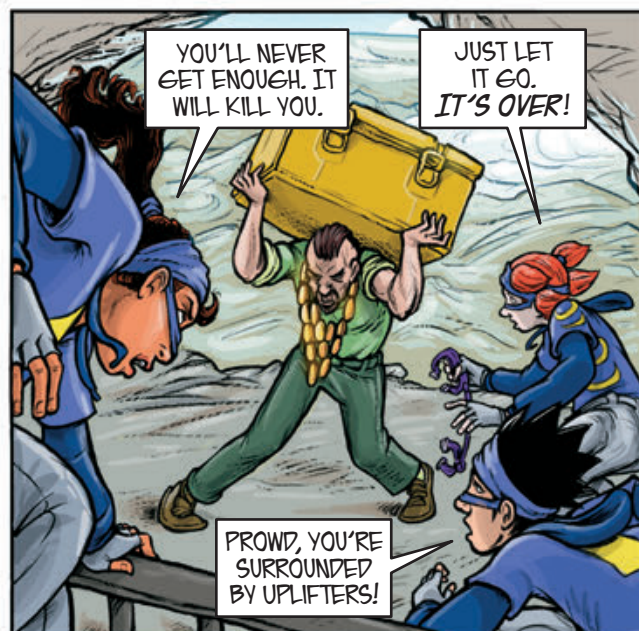
WHAT A WASTE! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE TRUSTED YOU!



LET'S PUT HIM IN THE DUNGEON NOW!



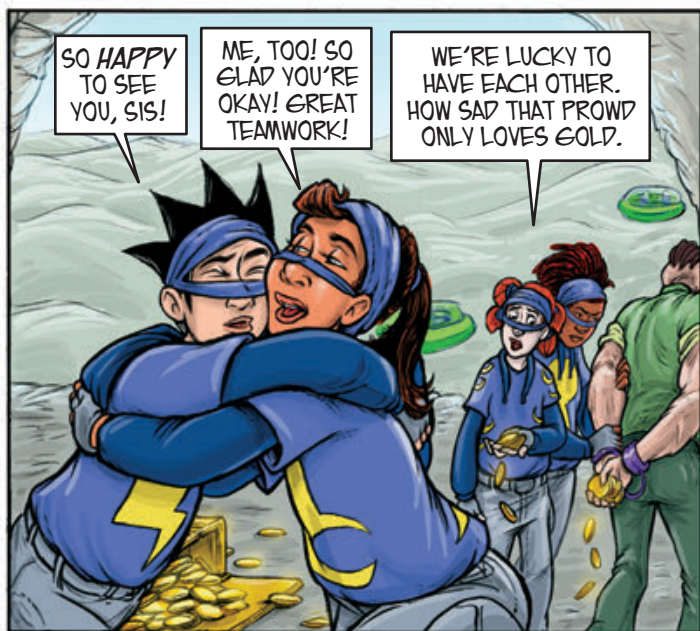
NO! YOU CAN'T STOP ME!



YOU'LL NEVER GET ENOUGH. IT WILL KILL YOU.

JUST LET IT GO. IT'S OVER!

PROWD, YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY UPLIFTERS!



SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU, SIS!

ME, TOO! SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY! GREAT TEAMWORK!

WE'RE LUCKY TO HAVE EACH OTHER. HOW SAD THAT PROWD ONLY LOVES GOLD.



PROWD WAS HIDING THE REAL GOLD FOR HIMSELF!

IMAGINE ALL THE GOOD THAT COULD BE DONE WITH IT.



PULSAR, THESE USE ELEMENTAL FORCES TO BLOCK OUR POWERS.

DEVIOUS AND DANGEROUS, ZAPPO. HOW MANY ARE STILL OUT THERE?

Herald of Peace:

The Báb's Life and Mission

October 20, 1819

The Birth of the Báb

Born in Shíráz, Persia (now Iran), the Báb ("the Gate") was named Siyyid 'Alí-Muhammad. "Siyyid" is a title given to descendants of the Prophet Muhammad.



Engraving of Shíráz from the 19th century

1834

An Honest Merchant

At 15, the Báb began working as a merchant with His uncles. He was well respected for His honesty and attention to detail.

October 1842

The Báb's Marriage

The Báb married His friend, Khadíjih Bagum. They had one son, Ahmad, who died soon after his birth.

1843

A Glimpse of a Revelation

The Báb said that one night, in a dream, "the Spirit of God had permeated and taken possession of My soul . . . and the mysteries of His Revelation were unfolded before My eyes . . ."

May 23, 1844

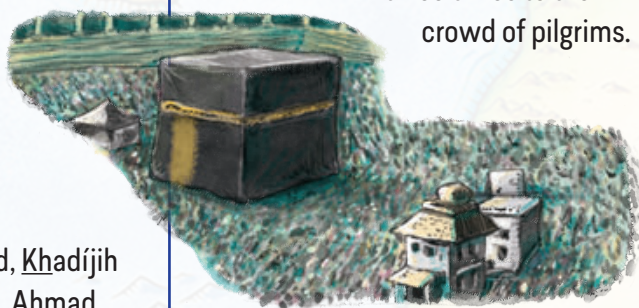
Declaration of the Báb in Shíráz, Persia

Mullá Husayn traveled across Persia seeking the Promised One of Islam. Two hours and 11 minutes after sunset on May 22, the Báb announced His mission to Mullá Husayn. He said, "I am the Báb, the Gate of God . . ."

December 1844

Public Announcement in Mecca, Arabia

While on pilgrimage to the Kaaba in Mecca, the holiest shrine of Islam, the Báb announced His station three times to the crowd of pilgrims.



The Kaaba in Mecca

June 1845

The Báb's First Arrest

The Báb's claim that He was the Promised One of Islam brought joy to those who believed Him, but angered and confused others. The governor of Shíráz ordered His arrest.

July 1847–April 1848

Imprisonment in Máh-Kú, Persia



Máh-Kú, Persia

In a dark castle He called "the Open Mountain," the Báb began to reveal His holy book, the Bayán.

April 10, 1848

Transfer to the Fortress of Chihríq, Persia

His jailors and the people in Máh-Kú grew to love the Báb. Officials sent Him to a more remote prison that He named "the Grievous Mountain." Here too, He gained admiration.



Chihríq, Persia

June 26 – July 17, 1848

Conference of Badasht, Persia

Bahá'u'lláh called a meeting of the Báb's followers. In the village of Badasht, 81 Bábís learned about the new laws and teachings of the Báb.

1819–1843

1844–1848



July 1848

Challenge in Tabríz, Persia

At a trial, the Báb announced that He was the Promised One of Islam. The authorities punished the Báb by beating the soles of His feet 11 times. Then He was taken back to Chihriq.

October 1848–May 1849

Battle of Fort Tabarsí

At a fort they had built around the shrine of Shaykh Tabarsí, 313 Bábís defended themselves against an army of about 12,000.

After seven months, the Bábís were tricked into surrendering, and most were killed. When the Báb learned of this, He was described as “crushed with grief” and “tears rained continually from His eyes . . .”



May 1850

Attacks on the Bábís in Zanján and Nayríz, Persia

The Bábís were forced to defend themselves against armies and angry mobs. They showed great courage, but were outnumbered. Over the years, about 20,000 Bábís were martyred throughout Persia.

June 1850

A Precious Gift

The Báb sent His rings, seals, writings, and pen case as gifts to Bahá'u'lláh. On a scroll of fine blue paper, the Báb had written 360 versions of the word “Bahá” in exquisite calligraphy, in the form of a star. Bábís who saw the scroll marveled at its outstanding artistry.

July 9, 1850

The Martyrdom of the Báb

In Tabríz, 750 soldiers fired at the Báb and one of His faithful followers, Anís. When the smoke cleared, they were found unharmed. At noon, the second attempt to kill the Báb and His companion succeeded. A dust storm arose, blocking the sun until that night.



Military barracks in Tabríz, where the Báb was martyred

1863

The Báb's Mission Is Fulfilled

The Báb had told His followers to seek “Him Whom God shall make manifest,” the next Messenger of God. In April 1863, Bahá'u'lláh announced that He was the One that the Báb had foretold.

1848–1849

1850–1863

Trees of Faith

“O Lord! Provide for the speedy growth of the Tree of Thy divine Unity . . .” —The Báb

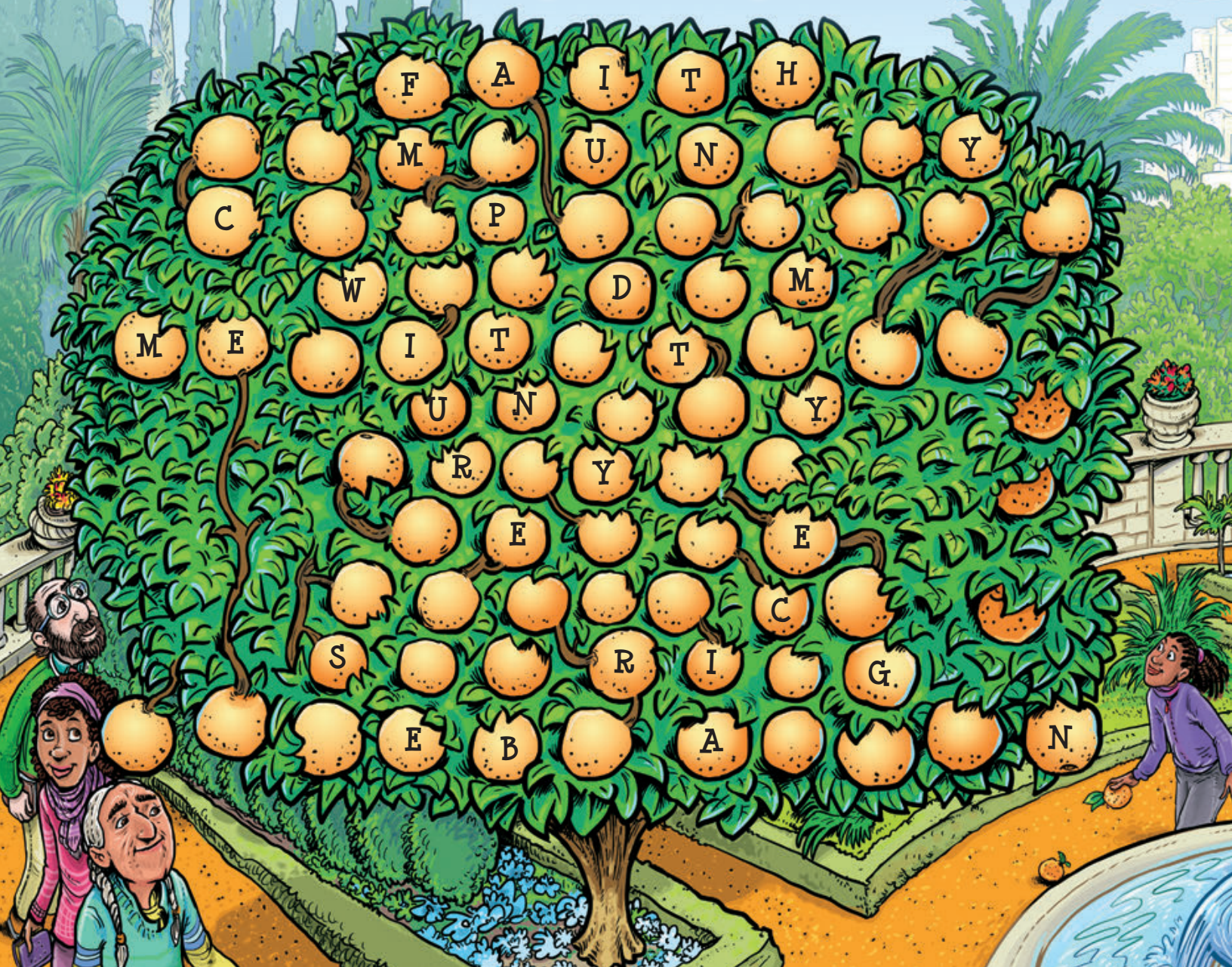
Did you know that trees are among the longest living things in the world? They're also a powerful symbol rooted in the world's diverse religions.

Sacred fig trees are often found in Hindu stories and worship. Buddhists believe that Buddha received knowledge from God while meditating under a fig tree. For Jews and Christians, the Bible begins with a story about Adam and Eve eating fruit from a tree in the

Garden of Eden. In the Qur'án, the holy book of Islam, a lote tree is seen by the Prophet Muhammad in heaven. In the Bahá'í writings, trees are used poetically by the Báb and Bahá'u'lláh. The Báb called His followers the “leaves and fruit of the same tree.”

Like a tree nourishes our bodies, faith offers us spiritual food and shelter for our souls. By turning to God's teachings for strength and guidance, we can all grow in love and unity.

In this orange tree growing near the Shrine of the Báb, fill in blank oranges with letters to find words that relate to all religions. Connected oranges have the same letter.



Light of Love: Make Your Own Lantern

“Should the lamp of religion be obscured, chaos and confusion will ensue, and the lights of fairness and justice, of tranquility and peace cease to shine.” —Bahá’u’lláh

I love how lanterns light up, like me! They’re fun, and they help you get around safely at night. Lanterns also remind me of the world’s religions. Each faith shines with the same light of God’s love and wisdom. Some teachings of major religions differ because they guide us as we evolve through the ages. But all faiths have constant, universal truths, such as the need for kindness and good deeds. Sometimes injustices or even wars are caused because

people think their faith is the only right one. To have unity, it helps to focus on the common source of guidance for the world’s religions, which is God. When we truly follow God’s teachings, all paths illumine our way to a more just and peaceful planet.

How do you like to share the light of religion with others? From prayer parties to holy day celebrations, this craft can make your events even more brilliant!



You'll Need

- jumbo craft sticks 6" x 3/4" (15.2 x 1.9 cm)
- ruler
- pencil
- tacky glue
- masking tape
- four pieces of 4" x 1" (10.2 x 2.5 cm) card stock
- four 4 1/2" (11.4 cm) square sheets colored, transparent rice or tissue paper
- scissors
- jumbo paper clips
- small battery-operated candle

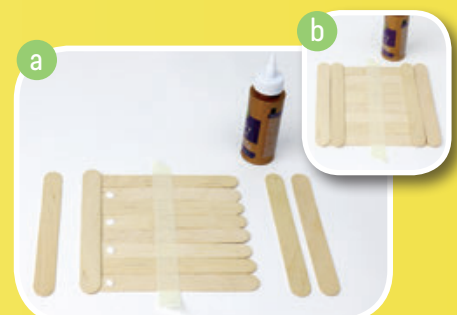
- 1 Place eight horizontal sticks in a row in front of you. Make row's sticks even on all sides to form a rectangular shape.



- 2 Without moving sticks, lay strip of tape across center of entire row.



- 3 (a) Center a vertical stick on left edge of row. Secure a second stick next to it by putting glue on every other horizontal stick. (b) Repeat Step 3 on right edge of row.





- 4 Repeat Steps 1–3 three more times, so you have four lantern walls. Let sticks dry. Remove tape and every stick that's not glued, so there are matching spaces between sticks.



- 5 From short ends, draw a line lengthwise along center of each piece of card stock. Fold each piece in half along centerline, using edge of a stick to help.



- 8 To make bottom of lantern, lay four horizontal sticks in an even row. Center five vertical sticks on top. Secure far left and far right vertical sticks with glue. Let dry.



- 9 (a) Remove unglued sticks. Trim off ends of two vertical sticks. (b) Flip bottom over. Glue bottom onto lantern's base so it's centered across wall edges. Let dry.



- 6 To form a corner of lantern, push ends of one wall's sticks through the open spaces at ends of another wall. Make sure each wall's two vertical sticks face up.



- 7 Glue card stock inside center of lantern corner, using paper clips to hold card and walls in place. Repeat Steps 6–7 for all corners. Let dry. Carefully remove clips.



- 10 Turn lantern right side up. Glue rice or tissue paper onto each inner wall. Add a battery-operated candle and watch it glow!



RADIANT STARS

Getting to know kids who shine

Connect with kids around the world! How are they like you? How are they different? Each of us has a unique story to tell. What's yours?

Maya G.

Age: **13**

I live in: **Washington, U.S.**

I want to be: **An advocate for children who are in harmful situations**

This career interests me because:

I have a passion for helping people who can't protect themselves.

Virtues I admire most: **Honesty and kindness**

Hobbies or sports: **I like to write poetry, and I like to sing.**



Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth group and local devotionals***

A hero or role model: **[Bábí martyr] Táhirih and Malala Yousafzai**

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:

It's a world religion that teaches that all of humanity should live in unity.

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

Investigate with an open mind and see for [yourself].

I like to pray:

When I am alone in my room or when I'm at a devotional and we are all sharing prayers

When I feel worried or sad: **I can pray and talk to God. If I need advice, then I can ask Him for it.**

Kavi S.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Massachusetts, U.S.**

I want to be: **Lawyer**

This career interests me because:

[I] can help protect innocent people and support justice in our communities.

Virtue I admire most: **Trustworthiness**

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth classes**

A hero or role model: **[Argentine soccer player] Lionel Messi**

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask: **When is the next Prophet going to come? ... I want to see how many years it takes to develop a Prophet.**



I like to pray:

In 'Abdu'l-Bahá's room at Green Acre [Bahá'í School in Maine, U.S.] because it helps me feel a connection with God

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:

The Bahá'í Faith is a religion that believes in the oneness of humanity.

When I feel worried or sad: **I remember how all the Prophets had to go through much harder times and that They got through it.**



Amin F.

Age: **11**

I live in: **Western Australia**

I want to be: **Astronaut**

This career interests me because:

I love space and the universe.

Virtue I admire most: **Justice**

Hobbies or sports: **Minecraft, hockey, and designing planes and spaceships**

Places I'd love to visit: **London and Singapore**

I like to pray:

In the mornings ...

Favorite Bahá'í activities: **Junior youth [group] and Feast****

A hero or role model:

In Bahá'í history, my hero and role model is Mullá Husayn, because of his bravery ...

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

When and where the next Manifestation of God will appear ...

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

That the only logical answer to the universe and everything is God

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Explain that all the Manifestations of God came from the same source, and that is God

Diba M.

Age: **11**

I live in: **Illinois, U.S.**

I want to be:
Chemical engineer

This career interests me because:
It's a career that can help change the world and improve the quality of life for people.

Virtue I admire most:
Trustworthiness

Hobbies or sports:
Drawing, dancing, singing, and swimming

A hero or role model:
My parents

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
I'd ask them to share their feelings and thoughts. I'd listen to them and respect their decision to believe in what they want.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Children's classes and Feast

To help religions get along in peace:

I think respect is very important. People from different religions and faiths need to first respect each other and then try to participate in each other's religions so they can have a better understanding of one another.

I like to pray:
In bed, every night before I go to sleep



Rachel D.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Oregon, U.S.**

I want to be: **An architect**

This career interests me because:
I love designing houses and floor plans.

Virtues I admire most:
Sincerity and honesty

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Children's classes and Bahá'í holidays

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
God is our Creator. Without Him, we wouldn't be here.

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:
Tell people it's okay to have different beliefs, but we shouldn't fight over it

A hero or role model:
I look up to my parents as my role models.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:
[It's] a religion where we believe in all religions. Bahá'u'lláh is our Manifestation of God.

When I feel worried or sad:
[It helps me to] think about 'Abdu'l-Bahá's quote . . . "I want you to be happy . . . to laugh, smile and rejoice in order that others may be made happy by you."



"God has crowned you with honor and in your hearts has He set a radiant star; verily the light thereof shall brighten the whole world!" — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Kian S.

Age: **12**

I live in: **Michigan, U.S.**

I want to be:
A soccer player . . . [and] an architectural engineer

This career interests me because:
I have always liked to play soccer . . . and enjoy the idea of using technology to design houses and buildings . . .

Virtue I admire most:
When people are kind . . .

Favorite Bahá'í activities:
Service projects with my [junior youth] group and helping out at shelters

A hero or role model:
My dad and my mom

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:
Find a way to include all their ideas and thoughts, so they all have a word in the decisions made



If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:
That God is there and exists. He is just there in a different way for everyone.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:
We support everyone and want to make the world a better place. We love everyone and appreciate [service for] others.

When I feel worried or sad:
[My faith] reminds me that I am not alone . . . I have my friends and family to support me and say prayers . . . When I say prayers . . . they make me feel a lot better.

How to be a Radiant Star:

1. If you're age 7-14, go to www.brilliantstarmagazine.org. From the top menu, choose "Discover." Then click "Become a Radiant Star or Trailblazer," and fill out the form. Or e-mail us at brilliant@usbnc.org. Include your name, age, birth date, mailing address, and phone number.
2. When it's your turn to shine, we'll send you questions and a form for you and your parents to sign.
3. Answer the questions and send them to us with the signed form, along with at least two good-quality, close-up photographs of your smiling face. Photos should be in sharp focus and show your eyes clearly. Please don't send color copies, low-resolution digital images, or copyright-protected images (like school portraits).

Kensho B.

Age: **11**

I live in: **Illinois, U.S.**

I want to be: **Chef**

This career interests me because:

I love cooking.

Virtue I admire most:

Kindness

Hobbies or sports:

Art, drawing, RPGs [role-playing games], video games, hiking, camping, cooking

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Praying at the Temple*

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Ask them to team up and clean the oceans of all the trash, and maybe they would become friends by working together on that

A favorite food: **Sushi**

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

Can I see my grandpas again someday?

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

It's up to them to see God in their heart.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:

It's a way of life that recognizes the unity of mankind and the beauty of Earth.

When I feel worried or sad:

I feel better when I pray to God.



Shiraz T.

Age: **10**

I live in: **California, U.S.**

I want to be: **A doctor**

This career interests me because:

I want to help people get better if they are sick. My mom is also a doctor.

Virtues I admire most:

Cleanliness and kindness

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's classes

A hero or role model:

My parents . . . they are kind and loving, and they love to help people.

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

There is a God, because I feel God whenever I say prayers. I feel love and closeness to Him . . .



If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

What it looked like before our universe was created

I like to pray:

In my room alone. The quiet helps me to concentrate, and there is nothing to distract me.

When someone asks about the Bahá'í Faith, I say:

The Bahá'í Faith is a world religion for today. And Bahá'u'lláh is the Messenger of God for today. He came to teach everyone about peace and oneness of religion.

Yasmine A.

Age: **10**

I live in: **Virginia, U.S.**

I want to be: **A teacher**

This career interests me because:

I like helping younger kids learn.

Hobbies or sports:

Gymnastics, art, travel, service, and [family time]

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Children's class

Virtue I admire most:

Truthfulness

A hero or role model:

Mommy

Place I'd love to visit:

I just went—pilgrimage in the Holy Land [Israel]

If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

About my future—I always wonder about it

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

Your choice, but the world would be chaos without His teachings.

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Teach people about Bahá'u'lláh

I like to pray:

On the way to school in the mornings and in my room with my family at night

When I feel worried or sad:

[My faith] has given me a prayer book I can use.



Anis-Nur A.

Age: **7**

I live in: **Arizona, U.S.**

I want to be: **A doctor**

This career interests me because:

I like to help people and those kids in the orphanage that I was at in Democratic Republic of Congo before I was adopted by my parents.

Favorite Bahá'í activities:

Making a handprint and writing all the Bahá'í virtues [in] each finger

Place I'd love to visit:

Iran, where my mother was born

A hero or role model:

My mom

When I feel worried or sad:

I keep saying that it is okay and God is here.

Favorite animal: **Lion**



If I could ask God a question, I'd ask:

How humans are made

If someone isn't sure there is a God, I'd say:

Come with us to the Bahá'í Center to learn more about God.

To help religions get along in peace, I'd:

Make sure that everybody gets treated the same way, no matter what race or religion they are

I like to pray:

In my bed at night before I go to sleep

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

Religion and faith can be difficult to talk about. These topics can lead to disunity. People from diverse faiths follow different teachings, and some people don't believe in God at all.

But God created religion to bring unity and peace to everyone. Talking about faith can lead to deeper and more meaningful friendships.

It's okay for friends to have different opinions about religion. Be respectful of other beliefs about faith. Try to find some common ground. For example, do you both believe it's important to be kind to our fellow humans and to all creatures on Earth?

If a friend or classmate says something disrespectful about your faith, what do *you* say?



THERE'S MORE THAN ONE PATH TO HEAVEN. ALL RELIGIONS HAVE TEACHINGS THAT CAN HELP US. LET'S JOIN THIS CLUB AND CHECK IT OUT.

OR

RELIGIONS SAY WE SHOULD BE *KIND* TO EACH OTHER. CAN WE AGREE ON THAT?

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



I BELIEVE IN GOD. BUT I KNOW EVERYONE NEEDS TO SEEK TRUTH FOR THEMSELVES.

OR

LOOK AT HOW *AWESOME* OUR PLANET IS. I BELIEVE WE WERE CREATED BY GOD. IT'S OKAY IF YOU BELIEVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:



GOD SENT RELIGION TO BRING LOVE AND UNITY TO THE WORLD. SOME PEOPLE FIGHT, BUT MOST PEOPLE DO *GOOD* THINGS.

OR

RELIGION GIVES A LOT OF PEOPLE GUIDANCE ABOUT TREATING OTHERS THE WAY WE WANT TO BE TREATED.

WRITE WHAT YOU WOULD SAY:

Dr. Moojan Momen



Imagine being five years old and traveling thousands of miles across the globe by bus, boat, and train. Then, what if you started school in a new country and had to learn a new language? This adventure is one of Dr. Moojan Momen's earliest memories.

Moojan was born in Iran, and his father passed away when he was three. His mother moved the family to England for better education. Moojan says she set a "heroic" example with her courage.

With determination, Moojan studied medicine and Arabic and Islamic culture at Cambridge University. He became a family doctor *and* a well-respected scholar of the Bahá'í Faith. He's written or edited more than 20 books. He's also a trustee of the Afnan Library in England, one of the world's richest collections of Bahá'í books, photos, and other treasures.

Now retired from his 40-year medical career, Moojan continues to study, write, and teach about Bahá'í history and beliefs. He lives in England with his wife, Wendi.

Q: What's your favorite childhood memory?

A: A few weeks before my 12th birthday, I went with my mother and brother on pilgrimage [in Israel] . . . We slept for two nights in the mansion of Bahjí . . . [near] the room of Bahá'u'lláh . . . One memory that comes across very strongly . . . was the warmth and kindness of our two guides.

Q: What was the most challenging experience for you as a kid?

A: Getting to England and . . . not knowing anything about the culture or the language, and sort of being thrust in at the deep end . . . [But] the teachers . . . were all very kind and helped us . . . learn the language very quickly . . .



Left: Moojan (right, about age 5) and his brother, Hooman, found it exciting to move to England.

Right: As a youth, Moojan (second from right) did service in the Gambia and other African countries.

Q: What is the Afnan Library?

A: [As] a medical student . . . I [met] Hand of the Cause Mr. [Hasan] Balyuzi* . . . When he unfortunately passed away in 1980 . . . he wished . . . his books to form the nucleus of a research library . . . It's an evolving collection based upon the Bahá'í Faith [and related] subjects . . .

Q: What are some of the coolest items in the Afnan Library?

A: We've got things from the family of the Báb going back a long time. We have some original tablets of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and letters of Shoghi Effendi . . . We have all sorts of interesting items [and] . . . photographs.

Questions and

Answers with an

Inspirational Bahá'í



Q: Why is it important to learn about different religions?

A: [When] teaching the Bahá'í Faith to other people, it's good to know something about their religion . . . Another reason [is that] . . . we still haven't really explored the Bahá'í Faith from a Buddhist perspective or from a Hindu perspective . . . Exploring the other religions, particularly with help from people of that religion, we can actually . . . understand the Bahá'í Faith better, because we'll be seeing . . . aspects of the Bahá'í Faith that we were blind to . . .

Q: What's your advice for kids who might be shy about sharing the Bahá'í Faith with others?

A: I was very shy when I was a child . . . I think you have to just create good friendships with people to whom you can start talking about the Bahá'í Faith . . . You gradually gain confidence to talk to them.

Top: Moojan and his family attended the opening of the Bahá'í Temple in Chile in 2016 (left to right): granddaughter, Aaliyeh; wife, Wendi; grandson, Dreyfus; daughter, Carmel; son-in-law, Ashley. **Left:** Moojan enters the Afnan Library, which is in a former chapel built in 1854 in Sandy, England. **Right:** With his wife, Wendi, Moojan shows documents to a guest in the Afnan Library in 2019.

Q: What is something you would like kids to know about the Báb?

A: I've written . . . about the Báb as an artist . . . He wrote about how when you have . . . some materials, like a few lines of calligraphy, it's necessary to bring them to their state of perfection—to write it in as beautiful a handwriting as possible and then to adorn it . . . with decoration . . . This state of perfection is the nearest that that thing comes to God, because it is most perfectly demonstrating one of the attributes of God, which is beauty.

Q: How do you think kids can help to celebrate the birth of the Báb?

A: Every child has to look to their own ability . . . If they are an artist . . . they can think about what the Báb says about the arts and try and produce something that's really excellent in the way of arts, whether that's drawing or . . . [they could] look at . . . Bábí heroes such as Táhirih or Mullá Husayn or someone and develop a sort of drama about that . . . [they can] dance . . . They can write poetry . . .

Q: If you had one wish for *Brilliant Star's* readers, what would it be?

A: That they make the effort to really get into the Bahá'í Faith and study . . . and to follow the guidance that comes from the World Centre . . . and to just sort of follow that path . . . and gain greater understanding of what it's all about.

SHINING LAMP

A Bahá'í who served humanity with radiance

Khadíjih Bagum (1822-1882)



Engraving of 19th-century Persia

Near midnight, Khadíjih Bagum climbed the stairs of her home, searching for her husband, the Báb. A bright light spilled from a room upstairs. Curious to find its source, she opened the door and found the Báb standing with His arms outstretched in prayer.

Khadíjih Bagum knew that her husband had profound spiritual knowledge, but at the time she didn't know that He was a Messenger of God. As she stood in the doorway, frozen in awe, she realized that the dazzling light was coming from Him. She hurried back to her room, overcome with wonder and unable to sleep all night.

The next morning, she trembled as she entered the breakfast room. The Báb offered her tea and said, "The Almighty God is manifested in Me . . . God has created Me for a great Cause, and you witnessed the divine revelation." The power of His words calmed her fears and left no room for doubt. She knew that her husband was a Messenger of God and the Promised One of Islam.

Lifelong Friends

Khadíjih Bagum was born in Shiráz, Persia (now Iran) in 1822.

As neighbors and childhood friends, she and the Báb had a deep bond.

One night, she dreamed that she would be His wife. She woke up feeling overjoyed. They were married in 1842, and she said, "No words can ever convey my wonderful feeling of good fortune."

Khadíjih Bagum and the Báb had one son

named Ahmad. He died soon after his birth. About a year later, in 1844, the Báb declared that He was a Messenger of God. Khadíjih Bagum was devoted to Him and was a kind hostess to His followers.

The Báb warned her that they would face many challenges. He revealed a prayer to bring her peace when He was gone. He said, "In the hour of your perplexity, recite this prayer . . . I Myself will appear to you and will banish your anxiety."

In 1846, the Báb was exiled from Shiráz because the governor was angry about His peaceful teachings. Khadíjih Bagum never saw Him again. In 1850, the Báb was martyred in Tabriz. He was executed by a firing squad.*

A Comfort to Others

Despite her grief, Khadíjih Bagum comforted Bábí women and children who were attacked because of their beliefs. In her later years, she lived in the House of the Báb in Shiráz and met with Bábís who visited it as a place of pilgrimage. The house was later destroyed by enemies of the Faith.

In 1863, Bahá'u'lláh declared that He was the Messenger of God foretold by the Báb. When she learned of this, Khadíjih

Bagum did not hesitate to recognize His station. Bowing her forehead to the ground, she said, "Offer at His sacred threshold my most humble devotion."

Khadíjih Bagum passed away on September 15, 1882, and was buried in Shiráz. Bahá'u'lláh praised her pure character and steadfastness, designated her as a martyr, and called her "the consort of God."



There are no available images of Khadíjih Bagum. Due to inequality, Persian women of her era were often secluded at home. This engraving from 1860 shows traditional dress of the time.

LIONHEARTS

"Their qualities of fearlessness, consecration, and detachment . . . impress themselves upon everyone . . . How striking, too, is the young age at which so many of those lionhearts made their indelible mark on history." —Bahá'í Writings

Since ancient times, the mighty lion has been a symbol of royalty and strength across cultures. The Bahá'í writings refer to some early followers of the Báb as "lion-hearted" for their courage while being persecuted. With the force of lions, whose thunderous roars can be heard for miles, many Bábís sacrificed their lives for their faith.

The lion is often seen as the "king" of animals. Lions are the only big cats that live in groups called **prides**.

Males protect the group, and females lead the hunt. Since the pride works together, lions have the power to take large prey, such as hippos and buffalos. Lions help to keep the ecosystem in balance by limiting the number of herd animals.

When we need to stand up for justice or truth, we can turn to our "pride" of friends and family for help. Inspired by the lion-like bravery of young Bábí heroes, we can fiercely pounce on fears and challenges.

Find 18 African lions in this Serengeti plain.

LIONS ARE THE SECOND LARGEST OF THE BIG CATS, AFTER TIGERS.



WHAT DID THE JEDI SAY
TO THE YOUNG TREES?

MAY THE FOREST
BE WITH YOU.

ACROSS

4. Earth's largest rainforest (p. 11)
5. All faiths have constant, universal _____. (p. 18)
8. A monarch _____ can grow 2,000 times its size as it transforms into a butterfly. (p. 5)
10. Khadíjih Bagum comforted Bábí women and children who were attacked because of their _____. (p. 26)
11. Groups of lions (p. 27)
13. Many religions say that _____ refreshes our spirits. (p. 2)
14. Some teachings of major religions differ because they guide people as we _____ through the ages. (p. 18)
15. The _____ is a ball of gas so massive that 1.3 million Earths could fit inside of it! (p. 9)

DOWN

1. Kavi and Diba admire this virtue. (pp. 20–21)
2. Bees have _____ vision! (p. 3)
3. Deep breaths before answering a tough question can help _____ you. (p. 8)
6. A powerful symbol rooted in the world's diverse religions (p. 16)
7. In winter, hibernating animals slow down their _____ and heart rates. (p. 10)
9. On May 24, 1844, Samuel Morse sent the first long-distance message with the electrical _____ in the U.S. (p. 17)
10. Dr. Moojan Momen says _____ is one of the attributes of God. (p. 25)
11. Mullá Husayn traveled across _____. (p. 14)
12. Be respectful of other beliefs about faith. Try to find some _____ ground. (p. 23)

FROM OUR MAILBOX



Brilliant Star is excellently written . . . It's made me feel like I have things to improve in. [For an issue theme, I'd choose] religious unity. We Bahá'ís need to get it in our heads that we're just like anyone else. Just because Bahá'u'lláh has the message for today doesn't mean we're superior to anyone.
—Ethan E., age 12
Maryland, U.S.

ANSWERS

KEY: T=Top, C=Center, B=Bottom, L=Left, R=Right

Page 5: Humble Hugo-7, Positive Polly-6, Motivated Mova-3, Kind Kay-1, Truthful Talia-8, Giving Gus-2, Content Cayla-5, Patient Purdo-4

Page 7: "The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity . . ."

Page 9: 1) Loving, smile; 2) Curious, learn; 3) Compassionate, kind; 4) Perceptive, qualities; 5) Listening, beliefs; 6) Courageous, friends; 7) Modest, humble; 8) Wonder, diversity; 9) Supportive, celebrate

Page 10: Bee at far TR, chipmunk at BL, frog at CL, hedgehog at BR, marmot at TL, prairie dog at C, snail at CL, snake at CL, turtle at TC

Page 11: Brazil, Tree kangaroos

Page 16: Faith, community, compassion, wisdom, meditation, unity, prayer, peace, service, sharing, celebration

Page 27: 1 at far TL, 1 at TR, 4 at CL, 2 at C, 4 at CR, 2 at BL, 2 at BC, 2 at BR

Page 29: A-yellow, B-red, C-orange

SPRING OF
SEARCH

PATHS OF VIRTUE

Through the ages, God sends Messengers to guide us, such as Moses, Jesus, Muhammad, the Báb, and Bahá'u'lláh. Whether we worship in a temple, church, or mosque, our faiths have much in common. Though each religion may seem to go in a different direction, they all provide a path to God.

Treat friends' beliefs with respect, even if they're on a different path than you are. Ask about their religion. Who is its Messenger?

What are its teachings and celebrations? How is it similar to your faith? Or if a friend says they don't believe in God, talk about that and find common ground, such as belief in the importance of kindness and generosity.

Everyone doesn't have to follow the same religion to walk together on a path to peace. When we start with love, God's light will illumine the way.

These three groups of kids are meeting at the Festival of Faith. There are three doors marked by flags. Which door does each group enter?



“Unlock the gates of true understanding and let the light of faith shine resplendent. Gather all people . . . and cause them to unite in harmony, so that they may become as the rays of one sun, as the waves of one ocean, and as the fruit of one tree.”

—‘Abdu’l-Bahá



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