

CITIZENSHIP

Teacher's Guide: GRADE 9 - Lesson 5

The Beauty of Our National Anthem

Competency (according to TLS), Element and Performance Criteria

- **Element 1:** Demonstrate an understanding of the uniqueness of individuals while recognising the shared norms, values and beliefs that form our collective Mauritian identity through cultural practices and civic engagement.
- **Performance Criteria Level 1:** Recognise the role of civic engagement in promoting social harmony in Mauritius.
- **Element 2:** Develop and apply creative and critical thinking skills to generate ethically sound ideas and approaches, enabling effective adaptation to changes in society while upholding human dignity and social justice.
- **Performance Criteria Level 1:** Identify key components of creative and critical thinking.
- **Element 5:** Communicate respectfully and sensitively across diverse situations to make meaningful connections.
- **Performance Criteria Level 1:** Listen attentively and respond to simple questions.
- **Performance Criteria Level 2:** Recognise the importance of respectful communication in building trust in diverse settings.

Purpose of activity:

This activity focuses on breaking down the lyrics of the national anthem to uncover their deeper meanings while promoting positivity, patriotism, and social cohesion. By analysing the themes, emotions, and messages within the lyrics, students engage in meaningful discussions about social issues and national identity. The goal is to explore how lyrics reflect cultural values, such as unity in diversity, respect for the land, and collective harmony in our society. This process fosters not only emotional connection and critical thinking but also instils values like tolerance, hope, solidarity and a sense of belonging—helping learners appreciate the power of words in shaping perspectives and nurturing unity in a multicultural nation.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- Understand the historical struggle and significance of Mauritius' independence, appreciating the sacrifices and efforts that shaped the nation
- Reflect on the importance of lyrics as a powerful medium for expressing national pride, unity and shared aspirations
- Evaluate the meaning and message of the national anthem, recognising how it embodies values such as freedom, peace, solidarity and respect for diversity

Resources and Materials:

- Whiteboard
- Markers
- A printed copy of the National Anthem

Teaching trajectories/Implementation guidelines:

This activity may be extended over 2 or more periods.

Step 1: Brainstorming

- Start with a brainstorming session on independence to add on the depth of the context: "The struggle for independence."
- Note students' responses on the whiteboard.

Step 2: Reflection Time

- Ask students to reflect on the importance of independence: "How important is independence?"
- Share students' views for some minutes.

Step 3: National Anthem

- Request for a volunteer to sing/read the national anthem.
- Affix a copy of the national anthem in class.

Step 4: Group Discussion

- Divide students into groups of four.
- Instruct students to discuss the lyrics of the national anthem.

Step 5: Picture Collage

- Create a picture collage on each set of lyrics discussed in students' respective groups.
- Affix the picture collage in class or on the school board.

Alternative week - Step 5**Step 5: Meme/Roleplay**

- Prepare a meme/roleplay on each set of lyrics discussed in students' respective groups.
- Presentation of the meme/roleplay in front of the class.

Step 7: Conclusion

- Wrap up the activity by highlighting key meaningful words from our national anthem.

Assessment (Activity Sheet/Worksheet for Students):

- Group participation and respectful discussion.
- Creativity and relevance in picture collage/meme/role play.
- Understand the importance of the lyrics of the national anthem.

Extension of activity: -

- Organise an exhibition of the picture collage at school level.
- Extend the meme/roleplay for the music day or any school event.