

Lesson Plan: Building a Nation from Scratch

The First Year of Pakistan: A Leadership Challenge

Materials Needed:

- Large sheet of paper or whiteboard (your "Government Headquarters")
- Sticky notes or small pieces of paper
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- An empty jar or box (the "Problem Jar")
- Building blocks (like LEGOs or Jenga blocks), or different colors of construction paper
- Scissors and glue/tape
- Printout of Quaid-e-Azam's motto: "Unity, Faith, Discipline"

Lesson Plan

Part 1: The Ultimate Treehouse Club (10 minutes)

Goal: To understand why rules and leadership are important for any new group.

1. **Opening Question:** Ask the student: "Imagine we're starting the most amazing, super-secret club in the world. What are the very first three things we need to decide on to make sure our club is fun and fair for everyone?"
2. **Brainstorm:** Listen to their ideas, which might include a name, a secret handshake, a leader, and rules. Guide the conversation towards the idea of needing:
 - A **Leader** (Who makes the final decision?)
 - A set of **Rules** (What is and isn't allowed?)
 - A **Goal** or **Purpose** (What is our club all about?)
3. **Connect to History:** Explain, "Starting a new country is like starting a giant, very important club. In 1947, Pakistan was brand new, and its leaders, especially its main founder **Muhammad Ali Jinnah**, also known as **Quaid-e-Azam** (which means 'The Great Leader'), had to figure all of this out. But they also had some really big problems to solve right away."

Part 2: The Problem Jar Challenge (15 minutes)

Goal: To actively problem-solve the major issues facing a new Pakistan.

1. **Prepare the Jar:** Before the lesson, write these challenges on separate slips of paper and put them in the "Problem Jar":
 - Millions of people (refugees) are arriving in our new country with no homes, food, or money. What do we do?
 - Our new country has almost no money in its bank. We can't pay for an army, police, or doctors. How do we get money?
 - Some parts of the country don't have a government set up yet. There are no mayors or officials. How do we create a government from nothing?
 - We don't have our own army headquarters, offices, or even paper and pens for government workers. Where will our new government work?
 - Our new country is split into two parts (East and West Pakistan) with a huge country in

between. How do we make them feel like one nation?

2. **The Challenge:** Have the student act as a top advisor to Quaid-e-Azam. They will pull one problem at a time from the jar.
3. **Discuss and Solve:** Read the problem aloud. On the large "Government Headquarters" paper, write the problem down. Ask the student: "If you were the leader, what would be your very first step to solve this?" Brainstorm creative and practical solutions together and write them down next to the problem. Encourage thinking about fairness and helping people.

Part 3: The Leader's Vision (15 minutes)

Goal: To understand Quaid-e-Azam's role and guiding principles.

1. **Introduce the Motto:** Show the student the printout of "Unity, Faith, Discipline." Discuss what each word means in the context of building a new country.
 - **Unity:** Why would it be important for all the people in a new country to stick together? (Connect this to the refugee problem or the East/West Pakistan problem).
 - **Faith:** What does it mean to have faith or believe in your new country and in yourselves?
 - **Discipline:** Why would people need to be organized and follow rules to build a nation? (Connect this to setting up a government).
2. **Creative Activity - Be the Quaid:** Ask the student to create a "Message to the Nation." They can choose one of the following:
 - **Draw a Poster:** Design a poster for the new citizens of Pakistan that visually represents Unity, Faith, or Discipline.
 - **Write a Short Speech:** Write 3-4 sentences that Quaid-e-Azam could have said to inspire people to help solve one of the problems from the "Problem Jar."
3. **Share:** Have the student present their poster or read their speech. Praise their leadership and creativity!

Part 4: Build Your Constitution (15 minutes)

Goal: To create a tangible representation of a constitution and its core values.

1. **Explain the Constitution:** "A constitution is the ultimate rulebook for a country. It's a promise that the government makes to its people about their rights and how the country will be run. Pakistan needed to create one to make sure the government was fair."
2. **Building Block Constitution:**
 - Give the student the building blocks (or colored paper). Assign a value to each color. For example: Red = Safety, Blue = Fairness for All, Green = Freedom, Yellow = Helping Each Other.
 - Ask the student: "For your new country, which values are the most important foundation?" Have them build a small structure. The blocks they choose represent the core principles of their new nation's constitution.
 - On a piece of paper, have them write "The Constitution of [Their Country's Name]" and list 3-5 rules based on the blocks they chose. For example, if they chose a blue block (Fairness), a rule could be: "Everyone gets to share their ideas, even if they are different."

Part 5: Wrap-up & Reflection (5 minutes)

Goal: To summarize the key takeaways from the lesson.

1. **Look at the Work:** Review the "Government Headquarters" paper with all the problems and solutions, the "Message to the Nation" poster/speech, and the "Constitution" they built.

2. Discussion Questions:

- "After solving all those problems, what do you think was the hardest part of creating a new country?"
- "Why can't a country work well without a leader like Quaid-e-Azam and a 'rulebook' like a constitution?"
- "What are you most proud of that you created today as a nation-builder?"