ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents

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Illustrated by [To be confirmed]

THEMES

Biography | Health & Wellbeing | STEAM | Girls in Science

Public Health | Real-World Applications of Science | Global Citizenship

LEARNING OUTCOME

Students will:

- Understand how science is used to solve real-world problems.
- Appreciate the importance of perseverance and global responsibility.
- Be inspired by a woman changemaker from South Asia.
- Explore how public health initiatives are developed and shared.

LESSON PLAN

This lesson connects science with civic engagement, encouraging children to explore how research can lead to real-world impact—especially when driven by empathy and local knowledge.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- Ask: “Can you name a scientist? What do scientists do?”
- Show a world map—locate Bangladesh and talk about local health challenges like cholera.
- Introduce the concept of vaccines and how they help keep people healthy.

During Reading:

- Pause to ask:
- “What inspired Firdausi to become a scientist?”
- “What problems did she face?”
- “Why do you think she chose to return home instead of staying abroad?”

After Reading:

- Discuss:
- “What is the link between science and kindness in this story?”
- “How do local scientists help solve local problems?”
- “How can more girls be encouraged to enter science?”

Activities:

- Science Timeline: Draw Dr. Qadri’s journey from childhood curiosity to scientific recognition.
- Design a Poster: “Girls Can Be Scientists Too!” with inspiration from Firdausi.
- Lab-to-Life Activity: Trace the journey of a vaccine from research to distribution.
- Interview Role-play: Students take turns playing Dr. Qadri and answering questions from classmates.
- Research Challenge: Name and map other women scientists across Asia and what they are known for.

RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- The Patient Scientist – A young girl learns patience and precision through scientific discovery.
- RJ the E-Waste Hero – A young changemaker finds a solution to electronic waste using innovation.
- Savio Finds the Right Angle – Applying geometry in real-world settings.
- Sharing Hope – A youth-driven literacy mission sparked by empathy and action.
- The River Warrior – Environmental activism through youth-led problem solving.

RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG Explanation

- SDG 3: Her vaccine work directly improves public health, especially in underserved areas.
- SDG 5: She is a pioneer for women in STEM, breaking stereotypes and mentoring others.
- SDG 9: She contributed to building scientific capacity and infrastructure in Bangladesh through her leadership at ideSHi and ICDDR,B.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will internalize that science is not confined to labs—it is a tool for improving people's lives. They will see that, regardless of gender or geography, scientists everywhere contribute to the greater good of humanity. From women breaking barriers in STEM to scientists in every corner of the world tackling local and global challenges, children will recognize that determination and curiosity shape a scientist's journey. They will be inspired to see their own questions and ideas as a pathway to meaningful action.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.
Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.
That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.