



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NEGROS ORIENTAL
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Kagawasan Ave., Daro, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental



Introduction to World Religions and Belief Systems

Quarter 1 – Module 3:
Positive and Negative Effects of Religion



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Introduction to World Religions and Belief Systems – Grade 12
Alternative Delivery Mode
Quarter 1 – Module 3: Positive and Negative Effects of Religion
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Introduction to World Religions and Belief Systems

**Quarter 1 – Module 3:
Positive and Negative Effects of
Religion**



Introductory Message

For the facilitator:

Welcome to the Introduction to World Religions and Belief Systems - 12 Alternative Delivery Mode (ADM) Module on Positive and Negative Effects of Religion!

This module was collaboratively designed, developed and reviewed by educators both from public and private institutions to assist you, the teacher or facilitator in helping the learners meet the standards set by the K to 12 Curriculum while overcoming their personal, social, and economic constraints in schooling.

This learning resource hopes to engage the learners into guided and independent learning activities at their own pace and time. Furthermore, this also aims to help learners acquire the needed 21st century skills while taking into consideration their needs and circumstances.

In addition to the material in the main text, you will also see this box in the body of the module:



Notes to the Teacher

This contains helpful tips or strategies that will help you in guiding the learners.









As a facilitator, you are expected to orient the learners on how to use this module. You also need to keep track of the learners' progress while allowing them to manage their own learning. Furthermore, you are expected to encourage and assist the learners as they do the tasks included in the module.




For the learner:

Welcome to the Introduction to World Religions and Belief Systems Alternative Delivery Mode (ADM) Module on Positive and Negative Effects of Religion!

This module was designed to provide you with fun and meaningful opportunities for guided and independent learning at your own pace and time. You will be enabled to process the contents of the learning resource while being an active learner.

This module has the following parts and corresponding icons:

 <i>What I Need to Know</i>	This will give you an idea of the skills or competencies you are expected to learn in the module.
 <i>What I Know</i>	This part includes an activity that aims to check what you already know about the lesson to take. If you get all the answers correct (100%), you may decide to skip this module.
 <i>What's In</i>	This is a brief drill or review to help you link the current lesson with the previous one.
 <i>What's New</i>	In this portion, the new lesson will be introduced to you in various ways; a story, a song, a poem, a problem opener, an activity or a situation.
 <i>What is It</i>	This section provides a brief discussion of the lesson. This aims to help you discover and understand new concepts and skills.
 <i>What's More</i>	This comprises activities for independent practice to solidify your understanding and skills of the topic. You may check the answers to the exercises using the Answer Key at the end of the module.
 <i>What I Have Learned</i>	This includes questions or blank sentence/paragraph to be filled in to process what you learned from the lesson.
 <i>What I Can Do</i>	This section provides an activity which will help you transfer your new knowledge or skill into real life situations or concerns.

 Assessment	This is a task which aims to evaluate your level of mastery in achieving the learning competency.
 Additional Activities	In this portion, another activity will be given to you to enrich your knowledge or skill of the lesson learned.
 Answer Key	This contains answers to all activities in the module.

At the end of this module you will also find:

References

This is a list of all sources used in developing this module.

The following are some reminders in using this module:

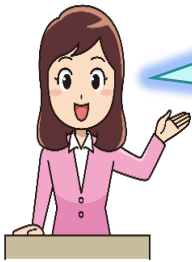
1. Use the module with care. Do not put unnecessary mark/s on any part of the module. Use a separate sheet of paper in answering the exercises.
2. Don't forget to answer *What I Know* before moving on to the other activities included in the module.
3. Read the instruction carefully before doing each task.
4. Observe honesty and integrity in doing the tasks and checking your answers.
5. Finish the task at hand before proceeding to the next.
6. Return this module to your teacher/facilitator once you are through with it.

If you encounter any difficulty in answering the tasks in this module, do not hesitate to consult your teacher or facilitator. Always bear in mind that you are not alone.

We hope that through this material, you will experience meaningful learning and gain deep understanding of the relevant competencies. You can do it!



What I Need to Know



Hi, this is Teacher Tina. Take a moment and ponder about this question, “What role does religion play in the occurrence of particular historical events?”

This is quite a challenging question, right? Now, let us learn together how religion can have both positive and negative effects on society.

MOST ESSENTIAL LEARNING COMPETENCY:

Analyze the influences of religion to culture and society.

At the end of the module, you should be able to:

- Analyze the influences of religion to culture and society.
- Discuss the effects of religions: positive and negative.
- Gather print or web-based articles, photos, editorial, etc. showing the positive or negative effects of religion.



What I Know

Instructions: Caption Me: Take a look at the two pictures below. Afterwards, think of an appropriate caption for each photo. Captions can be written in English or Filipino language. Use of hashtags are also allowed. Write your answers in your notebook.

Picture 1



https://www.ctvnews.ca/polopoly_fs/1.1536833.1384139564/httpImage/image.jpg_gen/derivatives/landscape_960/image.jpg

Caption: _____

Picture 2



<http://aboutcagayandeoro.com/wpcontent/uploads/2017/12/meal-clipart-filipino-family-19.jpg>

Caption: _____



What's In

In Modules 1 and 2, you have discovered how religions originated and developed into living traditions that affect the lives of their followers. You have also found out how geography and culture could have an effect on the establishment and development of religions.

As you have already learned, geography greatly affects the religion of a particular place/ country. On the other hand, a society's culture is also greatly affected by religion. This module will explore how culture is influenced by religion. We will also study the positive and negative effects religion has on the societies at some points in history.



What's New

Instructions: Read and understand the following questions. Write your answers in your notebook.

1. Do you think your captions in “What I Know” are appropriate for the given pictures? Why or why not?

2. How do you think are the pictures connected to, what you will be learning in this module?



Religion does play many roles in a society and is likewise attributed to certain positive and negative happenings on societies at some points in history.



What is It

HOW DO RELIGIOUS BELIEFS INFLUENCE CULTURE?

Religious beliefs influence culture in a variety of ways. Certainly, before societies were as civilized as ours, religious beliefs and culture were much more effectively mixed.

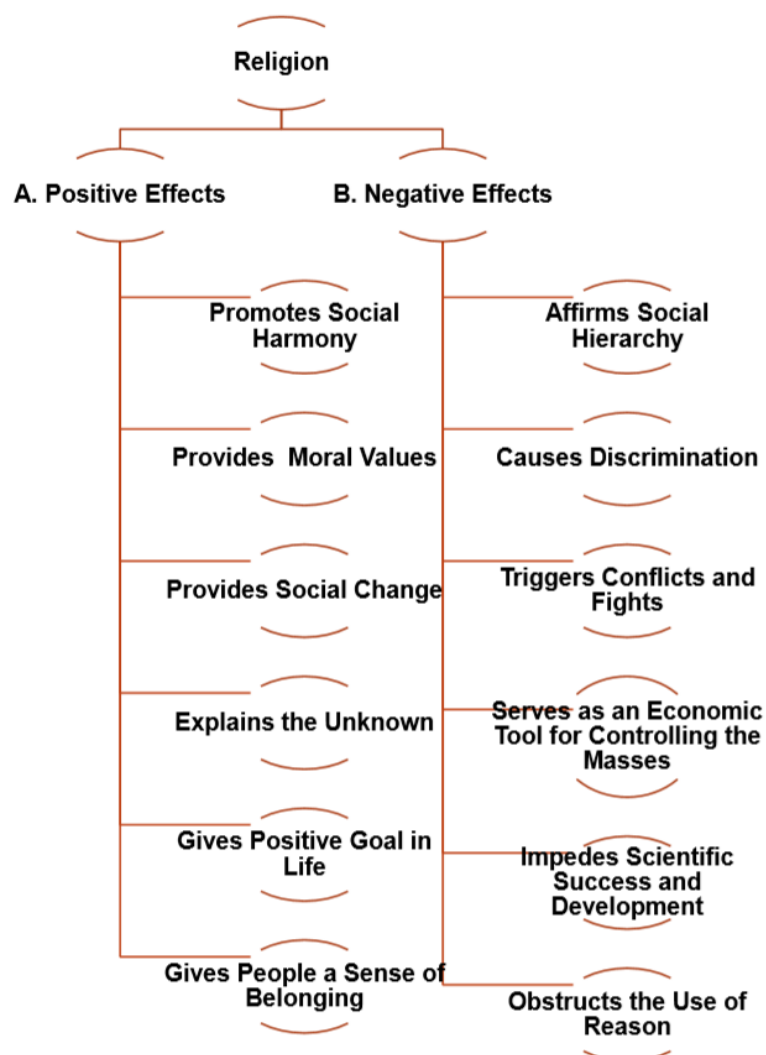
Today, religious beliefs help **determine the value systems** used in a culture. In America, many of the regulations and laws are based on concepts and principles articulated in the Bible. This makes great sense because Puritans helped build their great learning institutions like Harvard and Yale. These principles set forth acceptable behaviors and necessary consequences for breaking them. These similarly align to the Ten Commandments in the Bible.

Another way religious belief influences cultures have to do with **service to others**. In our own selfishness, we easily turn inward and focus on the self, not society. Religious groups help to foster community, giving, and fellowship. Having common beliefs puts people in accountable relationships. Research has even demonstrated that participants in churches, regardless of denomination or sect, live happier and longer lives.

Religious beliefs often **unify people** in a culture. Coming together for meals, listening to the same music that identifies a religious belief, and practicing the same method of worship gives people a shared identity.

<https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/how-do-religious-beliefs-influence-culture-395981>

POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF RELIGION



A. Positive Effects of Religion

1. Promotes Social Harmony

- Religion practices a set of rituals and ceremonious rites of passage and intensification. It also regards religious leaders in high esteem. These characteristics help advance social harmony by assimilating and stabilizing cultures and nations.
- Religion provides divine authority to ethical and moral principles which also help promote unity among people. Common participation in rituals together with basic uniformity of beliefs help promote social cohesiveness.

2. Provides Moral Values

- This is one of the most significant functions of religion. It provides a systematic model of the universe, which in effect determines organized human behavior.
- By providing moral values, one is able to distinguish right from wrong, good from evil. It also provides a system of reward and punishment that administers and standardizes people's behavior in society.
- Some people believe that following rules of their religion is more important than government rules since most people give more importance to the reward and punishment in the afterlife

3. Provides Social Change

- Since religion is a source of moral values, it provides social change. It can be very effective in lobbying and campaigning for certain social issues using its own moral teachings as the basis for argument.
- Religion has the potential to institute social change, especially in the issues concerning poverty, reproductive health, gender equality and religious discrimination.

4. Reduces Fear of the Unknown

- Religion was developed from man's need to have a sense of origin and destination; to discover where they came from and where they are bound to go when they die. Religion provides answers for phenomena and questions that science or reason cannot explain.
- Myths about creation abound but more importantly, religion has provided assurances as to where spirits will go when people die, reducing people's fear of death as something undesirable.
- Some religions have even made death a better alternative to living in uncertainty.

5. Gives Positive Goals in Life

- People were inspired by the stories of different prophets from their own religious affiliations like that of Moses, Buddha and Muhammad.
- These people showed how ordinary people like them were given important missions in life, and how they struggled to carry out their respective missions.

- Their narratives (known to us because of religion) may give people a sense of meaning in life; that they are not placed in this world without a purpose, that each has a mission to fulfill and it is up to them to fathom what their missions in life are.

6. Gives People a Sense of Belonging

- For some, religion provides people with personal identity as part of a group with similar worldviews, beliefs, values, practices, and lifestyles.
- Belonging to a particular religion – whose members share the same beliefs, practices the same rituals and worship the same god – gives individuals a sense of being in the right place with the right people.
- It also provides them a sense of security because other people who belong to the same group tend to support and help each other in times of crisis. People can also rejoice with them in times of success.

B. Negative Effects of Religion

1. Affirms Social Hierarchy

- Some religions often favor men and as a result, perpetuate the notions of class or gender discrimination or oppression.
- Examples:
- Confucianism emphasizes the relation between the ruler and the subject, with the ruler exercising authority over the people.
- The traditional caste system in India would also reflect how religion shows political and social structures since it propagated the idea that people had to be subdivided into certain social classes with particular social roles and that the attainment of moksha (union of the universal and individual soul) would depend on how they performed their duties based on their designated class.

2. Causes Discrimination

- Religion can be a source of discrimination or the prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things.
- Some people do not tolerate religious ideologies different from the one they follow. Religious fanaticism can lead to feelings of hatred, which could lead to racism and eventually violence.
- Throughout history, religion has been used by colonizers to justify their forcible occupation of territories.
- There are also some religions which discriminate other religions by saying that theirs is the “right religion” and that only their followers will be saved in the afterlife.

3. Triggers Conflicts and Fights

- Wars have been fought in the name of religion.
- Numerous lives were sacrificed and lost and this phenomenon continues up to the present time.

For example:

- In Palestine, Jews are in conflict with the Muslims;
- In Kashmir, Muslims are against Hindus;
- In Sudan, Muslims vs Christians and animists

4. Economic Tool for Exploiting the Masses

- Karl Marx said, “Religion is the opium of the masses.” he believes that religion maintains social inequality by propagating a worldview that justifies oppression.
- People will not complain of being poor or being in the lower ranks because “the kingdom of Heaven is waiting for them”

5. Impedes Scientific Success and Development

- Catholic church claimed that the earth was flat and that it is the center of the solar system and so when Copernicus stated his theory that the sun is the center of the solar system, he was banned from the church and his book was banned for more than 200 years.
- Some religions have rituals that impede scientific success. Some are even unsanitary which may cause more danger to people.

For example:

- During the cholera outbreak in the Philippines, the Catholic practice of having the dead body of cholera victims be brought to church for a Mass was seen as one reason why the cholera epidemic continued to spread rapidly.

6. Obstructs the Use of Reason

- Many questions the sustainability of religious doctrines to the needs of the present and future generations. Ancient religious beliefs and practices which have proven to be inhuman should be replaced with sensible ones.

For example:

Trepanning or boring of holes in the skull, a surgical procedure performed on epileptics and the mentally ill, with the belief that through the hole, the evil spirit will leave the person.

HISTORICAL EVENTS CAUSED BY RELIGION

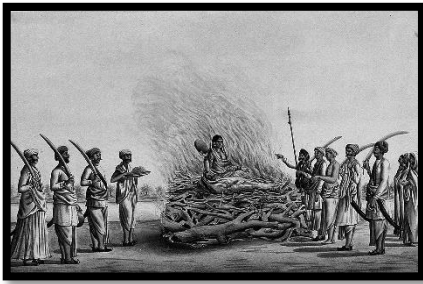
1. Self-Immolation of a Buddhism Monk in Vietnam



Thich Quang Duc was a Vietnamese Mahayana Buddhist monk who immolated himself on 11 June 1963. He was protesting against the persecution of Buddhists by the South Vietnamese government led by Ngo Dinh Diem. The immolation was considered to be an act of defiance against a corrupt government.

Source: <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2043123,00.html>

2. Widow Burning Among the Hindus in China



Source:

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/india/articles/the-dark-history-behind-sati-a-banned-funeral-custom-in-india/>

Sati, or the practice of self-immolation of a widow on her husband's funeral pyre, is said to have originated 700 years ago in India. It is believed to have started among the ruling class or rajputs in India, when the Rajput women burnt themselves to death after their men were defeated in battles to avoid being taken by the conquerors. Later on, it has become a manifestation of wifely devotion. It has been outlawed by the British rulers in 1829 but rare cases still continue to occur.

3. The Inquisition



<https://www.history.com/topics/religion/inquisition>

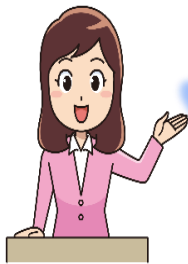
Inquisition refers to the Roman Catholic Church groups charged with subduing heresy from around 1184. The Inquisition was a response to large popular movements in Europe considered heretical or profane to Christianity, particularly Catharism (a Christian dualist movement which espoused the idea of two gods, one being good and the other evil) and Waldensians (a Protestant Christian movement which advocated that apostolic poverty is the way to perfection) in southern France and southern Italy.

4. The Godhra Train Incident in 2002



https://www.hindustantimes.com/tf/image_size_960x540/H1/p2/2017/10/09/Pictures/gujarat-pours-western-godhra-carriage-indian-train_1c424b48-aca5-11e7-9bc1-6ddb500cf946.jpg

In February 2002, a train was set on fire in which 59 people, including 25 women and 15 children were killed. The fire happened inside the Sabarmati Express train near the Godhra railway station in the Indian state of Gujarat. Those who died inside the train were mostly Hindu pilgrims and activists returning from the holy city of Ayodhya after a religious ceremony at the disputed Babri Masjid site. It took six years for the commission appointed to investigate the said incident to conclude that the fire was committed by a mob of 1000-2000 people. Thirty-one Muslims were convicted by the court for the incident and conspiracy for the crime.



Although so many atrocities have been committed in the name of religion, we should bear in mind that more often than not, there are other factors at play. Politics and economics often play a key role in religious conflicts. Sadly, some political parties take advantage of religious conflicts to pursue their own interests, and that is winning in the next elections.



What's More

Directions: Cut pictures from magazines or newspapers which reflect three (3) of either positive or negative effects of religion. Paste these cut-out pictures on your activity notebook. If printed materials are not available, you may choose to illustrate them by drawing or sketching them yourself.

Your presentation will be graded using the following criteria:

Criteria	Description	Points	Points Obtained
Organization	The concept was clearly and creatively conveyed	10	
Content	The pictures were appropriate to the theme	5	
Visual Presentation	The idea was clearly presented based on the pictures/ drawings and words used	5	
		Total: 20	



What I Have Learned

Directions: Copy and answer these questions in your activity notebook.

1. Do you agree that sometimes religious conflicts are being used for political reasons? Why or why not?

22. In your own opinion, can religious conflicts be avoided? If yes, how?

3. Among the positive effects of religion, which can you relate with and why?



What I Can Do

Instructions: Below are the lyrics to John Lennon's song "Imagine". Read carefully each line and think about the possible consequences if a society has no religion.

Imagine

John Lennon

Imagine there's no heaven
It's easy if you try
No hell below us
Above us only sky
Imagine all the people living for today
Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people living life in peace, you

You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one
Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can

No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people sharing all the world, you
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one
I hope someday you'll join us
And the world will be as one

Source: [LyricFind](#)

List down at least five possible consequences if a society has no religion.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Assessment

Instructions: Which effect of religion is referred to in the following sentences? Write the letter of the correct answer in your activity notebook.

Choices:

- a. Religion promotes discrimination.
- b. Religion promotes social harmony.
- c. Religion affirms hierarchy.
- d. Religion sets positive goals in life.
- e. Religion obstructs scientific success and development.
- f. Religion reduces fear of the unknown.
- g. Religion obstructs the use of reason.
- h. Religion gives people a sense of belonging.
- i. Religion makes people fight each other.
- j. Religion provides moral values.

- _____ 1. Religion integrates and stabilizes cultures as well as nations.
- _____ 2. Religion should be susceptible to progress.
- _____ 3. Religion sets notions of right and wrong.
- _____ 4. Religion promotes obscurantism.

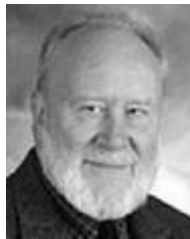
- _____ 5. Religion gives a sense of origin and destination.
- _____ 6. Religion is a source of discrimination.
- _____ 7. Religion gives a sense of purpose in life.
- _____ 8. Religion makes good people do evil things.
- _____ 9. Religion provides personal identity to individuals as part of a group with similar world views, beliefs, values, practices, and lifestyles.
- _____ 10. Religion perpetuates notions of class or gender discrimination and oppression



Additional Activities

Read a testimony from Philip Hefner regarding the positive effects of religion in his life.

SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS OF RELIGION



Philip Hefner

<https://www.iras.org/positivereligion.html>

The most important aspect of religion is its relentless struggle to focus on the dimension of depth in our lives. We are subjected every day to the pressure to attend to the surface of things. Our culture urges us to lose ourselves in the surfaces of life—the condition that Herbert Marcuse described as the one-dimensional person. We live under an economic system that views human persons exclusively in economic terms; science and technology, whose great contribution to life is their explanations of the perceptible “outside” of things and their success in applying those explanations to making our lives easier and giving us more possibilities; the “medicalizing” of more and more areas of our experience, leading to suggestions that drugs and procedures can ward off aging and even dying; the omnipresent news media that inflame us to invest ourselves in concern for momentary happenings, insisting the ephemera of daily events are deeply significant.

The pressure toward one-dimensionality threatens to cut us off from the deeper foundations on which our experience rests. Religion stands in contrast as a signal of the depth-dimension. Its signaling occurs in several forms.

Worship practices or rituals. Prayer, singing, and rituals specific to each religious community are concrete, not abstract. I think of meals as well as festivals and pilgrimages. These observances focus on the stuff of everyday life and set it in the framework of more profound dimensions of life. The Seder meal reminds Jews that they are shaped by a very long history, a history that gives them identity; the Holy Communion meal signals to Christians that the center of life's meaning is giving oneself for the welfare of others; in the Eid ul Fitr, Muslims give thanks after the month of Ramadan fasting that teaches patience, spirituality, humility and submissiveness to God. Rituals also mark the major events of life--birth, puberty, marriage, death—with rites of passage that set the events in a larger narrative of meaning.

Texts or Scriptures. Most religions have sacred texts that offer wisdom, moral injunction, and inspirational stories that point to a dimension of what William James called the MORE.

Daily practices. Buddhists cultivate practices of mindfulness, peacefulness, and compassion. In one form or another, all religions inculcate these practices. The Jewish teachings about mitzvot—the obligations to perform moral acts, particularly acts of kindness—and Tikkun olam (repairing the world) have inculcated over the centuries an intense commitment to social justice. Giving to charity is a fundamental mark of Islam. Such practices are constant reminders that there is more to life than the moment, more than individual, selfish “getting ahead.” The religions also include rituals of giving thanks and celebrating the goodness of life. All these rituals evidence a counter-cultural voice to the widespread philosophy of “things just happen.”

The struggle for the meaning of life. The traditions of the religions are millennia long, and as such they embody the depth and variety of human efforts to understand what life is about and how we should conduct our lives. These traditions record how people in different epochs and different life-situations have probed the realities of human frailty and sickness, birth and death, evil and virtue, success and failure, wealth and poverty, abundance and scarcity, depression and exhilaration, loneliness and togetherness, alienation and reconciliation, sexual relations, war and peace, human diversity and otherness. These traditions are so diverse that they present a wide range of responses and a variety of answers to the perennial questioning of human existence.

When we participate in these traditions we join experientially the ongoing journey of discovery of what it means to be human. The search for meaning runs through all these traditions. For most but not all of these traditions, the idea of God is central; “God” is a way of talking about the depth from which our experience and its meaning flows. All religions, in one way or another, point towards the reality of soul, which is another way of talking about depth. As Sven Birkerts writes, “my soul is “the active inner part of me that is not shaped by contingencies, that stands free.” Many people

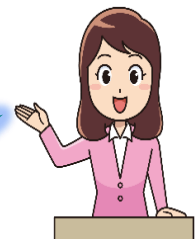
today doubt that “soul” or “God” refer to anything real; they doubt there is an “inner part.” Questions of meaning do not interest them. This may indicate the power of the forces of one-dimensionality. Many poets today (even those who, like Birkerts do not accept God or religion) say that without a concept of soul, without a sense of depth, we cannot understand what it means to be human. The issue is not the death of God, but the death of the human.

What is positive about religion? For me it is this manifold tradition of thinking, acting, and shaping my spirituality with constant reference to the depth of life and the irrepressible struggle for meaning.

Question:

What are the positive effects of religion discussed in this module that were also shared by the author above?

Congratulations! You have just finished the third module. I hope you have grasped well how religion can become like a double-edged sword: it can have both positive and negative effects on society.



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BOOK

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TEACHERS GUIDE

Most Essential Learning Competencies

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