

Gurdwara

A Gurdwara is a Sikh's place of worship. It houses the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs sit down in the prayer hall so they are not above the Guru. They pray together as a community. At the end of their service they will have a meal together. This is called the **Langar** where vegetarian food is served.

Why do they serve vegetarian food?

In what other ways is the Gurdwara used?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How can one recognise a building is a Gurdwara from the outside?

The **Karah parshad** (specially prepared sweets) is shared at the end of the service. Why do you think this is?

Key words

Provide definitions for the key terms below;

Gurdwara –

Guru –

Khalsa –

Guru Granth Sahib –

Baisakhi –

Sewa –

Langar –

Nishan Sahib –

Amrit –

Yr. 8 Learn
Sheet
Assessment
point 2
Sikhism

5 Ks in Sikhism

The 5 Ks are:

1. Kesh (uncut hair) – a gift from God symbolises adoption of a simple life
2. Kara (a steel bracelet) – belief in a never ending God, every time they look at it, it will remind them to avoid sin.
3. Kanga (a wooden comb) – it keeps the tangles out of their hair, gives them hope that God will take the tangles out of their lives.
4. Kaccha - also spelt, Kachh, Kachera (cotton underwear) – a symbol of chastity
5. Kirpan (steel sword) – a reminder to protect the faith and the vulnerable.

The 5 Ks form a uniform for baptised Sikhs.

What does this mean?



Which K out of the 5 could cause problems in the UK? Why is this?

How do you think Sikh's feel when wearing the 5 Ks?

Think of groups of people who can be recognised by what they wear.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Gurus in Sikhism



Guru Nanak (1469-1539) =

Guru Angad (1539-1552) =

Guru Amar Das (1552-1574) =

Guru Ram Das (1574-1581) =

Guru Arjan (1581-1606) =

Guru Hargobind (1606-1644) =

Guru Har Rai (1644-1661) =

Guru Harkrishan (1656-1664) =

Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675) =

Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708) =

RESEARCH TASK: Research the Gurus above and explain why they are important.

Guru Granth Sahib

Guru Gobind Singh decided that he would leave the Sikh community to be guided by the writings and teachings of all the Gurus in written form. The book is now treated in exactly the same way as a human leader would be.



TASK: Write down 4 ways the Guru Granth Sahib is treated as a human.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What rules should be followed when in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

When is the Guru Granth Sahib used in the Gurdwara?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

TASK: The Guru Granth Sahib is unusual as it includes hymns by men from other religions.

Why do you think this is?

History of Sikhism

The Life of Guru Nanak (The founder of Sikhism)

Nanak was born on 15 April 1469. The nurse saw a dazzling light around his head. His father was worried and asked the priest what it meant. The priest said it was a good sign and that he would grow up to be a great king or guru (teacher). Nanak always wanted to know who God was and what the purpose of life was. One day, Nanak disappeared while bathing at the river. His family feared he had drowned. After 3 days he returned and said he had been with God who had told him he was now a Guru of the new religion of Sikhism. Guru Nanak left his family and travelled around teaching people for 20 years. Guru Nanak died in 1539.

‘There is no Hindu, there is no Muslim.’

What do you think Guru Nanak meant by this?

Nanak was different to others when he was a child. How was this?

Watch the clip and explain below. [<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mx3t9>]

The Khanda (Sikh symbol)

The Khanda is made up of 2 kirpans, a double edged sword and a circle.

TASK: What do you think the circle represents?

What do you think the 2 crossed Kirpans represent?

What do you think the double edged sword in the middle represents?



Khalsa

On the festival of **Baisakhi** Guru Gobind challenged the Sikh community by asking them who was willing to die for their faith and for their Guru? 5 volunteers agreed to sacrifice their own life. Guru Gobind Singh was testing them. They did not die but were awarded with bravery. The reward was to be part of an elite community called the **Khalsa**.

TASK: What must the members of the Khalsa wear?

How do members of the Khalsa differ from ordinary Sikhs?

Do groups like the Khalsa create more division than unity in communities?

What difference do you think it makes for Sikhs that they all share the same name?

