

Year: 4

Topic: Sikhism

Key Vocabulary

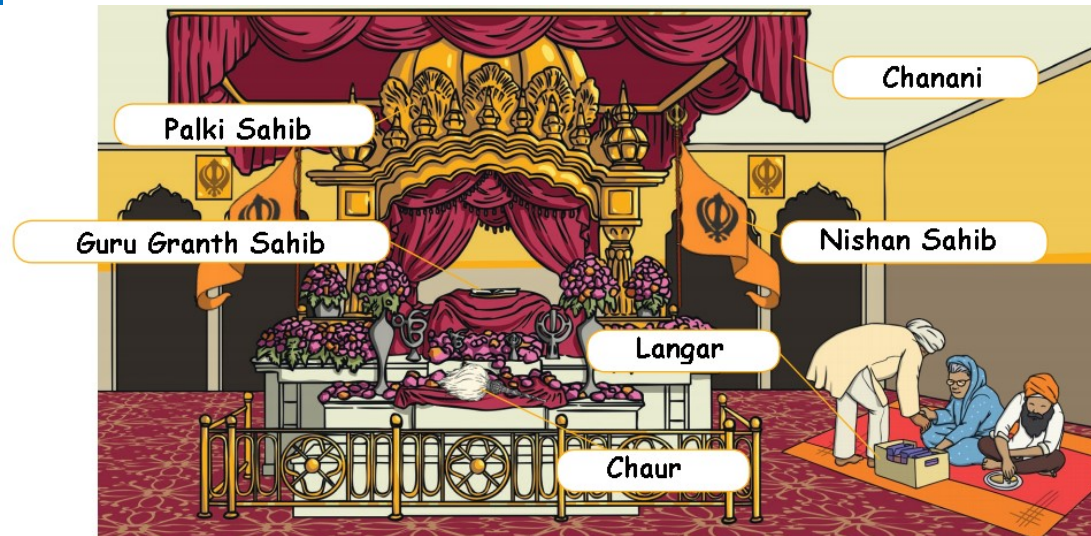
Word	Definition
Guru	A spiritual leader.
Guru Granth Sahib	This is the Sikh holy book.
Gurdwara	A Sikh place of worship.
Nishan sahib	A flag that shows the Gurdwara is a place of worship.
Chauri	A fan which is waved over the Guru Granth Sahib.
Langar	This is a free kitchen where food is served.
Sewa	Serving others.
Rumala	The piece of cloth that covers the Guru Granth Sahib.
Manji Sahib	A raised platform where the Guru Granth Sahib is placed.

What I should Know

The 5 K's



Features of a Gurdwara



Khanda



Ek Onkar



Important events

1469

Guru Nanak was born near Lahore, in the Punjab.

1539

Guru Nanak died in the Punjab town of Kartarpur.

1699

At a festival in Anandpur the tenth Guru, Gobind Singh, founded the community of the Khalsa.

1708

The last of the Gurus, Gobind Singh, died. Instead of choosing a person to be the next Guru he decided that all future followers of the Sikh religions should follow the Sikh scriptures, the

Important/Key Facts

- The word 'Sikh' in the Punjabi language means 'disciple', Sikhs are the disciples of God who follow the writings and teachings of the Ten Sikh Gurus.
- There are 10 Gurus in the Sikh faith and include Guru Nanak (Sikhism's founder), Guru Angad, Guru Amar Das, Guru Ram Das, Guru Arjan Dev, Guru Hargobind, Guru Har Rai, Guru Har Krishan, Guru Teg Bahadar, and Guru Gobind Singh (the last human Guru).
- Sikhism's founder was Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who lived from 1469 to 1538.
- Guru Nanak's message was quite simple: pray to God, work hard, be honest, care for your family and your community.
- There are four doors into a gurdwara, known as the Door of Peace, the Door of Grace, the Door of Livelihood and the Door of Learning. These doors are a symbol to everyone that people from all four points of the compass are welcome to enter.
- Many Sikhs visit a gurdwara for worship. The gurdwara is also a place to learn more about Sikhism. The gurdwara is a community centre too, offering food, shelter and company for those who need it.
- People visit the gurdwara during special festivals to celebrate Gurus such as Guru Nanak because he started the Sikh faith.
- Covering the head in the Sikh faith is a sign of respect for their Gurus.
- The Sikh turban is symbolic of spirituality, humility, integrity, and discipline.
- Sikhs believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.

Festivals

Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi - the Sikh New Year festival - is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar. It was originally a Spring Harvest Festival, whose celebration was first introduced by Guru Amar Das. It now marks a significant historical event for Sikhs, as it is the date of the founding of the Sikh community - the 'Khalisa'. To celebrate Vaisakhi, Sikhs will visit places of worship called Gurdwaras. These will also be especially decorated for the occasion. Many people enjoy parades and special processions through the streets called nagar kirtans.



Diwali

Diwali, the Festival of Light, is particularly important because it celebrates the release from prison of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, and 52 other princes with him, in 1619. The Sikh tradition holds that the Emperor Jahangir had imprisoned Guru Hargobind and 52 princes. The Emperor was asked to release Guru Hargobind which he agreed to do. However, Guru Hargobind asked that the princes be released also. The Emperor agreed, but said only those who could hold onto his cloak tail would be allowed to leave the prison. This was in order to limit the number of prisoners who could leave. However, Guru Hargobind had a cloak made with 52 pieces of string and so each prince was able to hold onto one string and leave prison. Sikhs light divas and set off fireworks to mark this occasion.



Beliefs

- There is only one God. Worship and pray only to the one God.
- Different religions are all paths to the same God. All humans are children of the same God.
- You should live honestly and always work hard.
- Everyone is equal in God's eyes.
- Be kind and help all people and animals.
- Always speak the truth.

Websites, Books, Resources

Websites:

True Tube

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/blood-and-milk>

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zzsjpyrd/articles/zkjpkmn>

Kiddle

<https://kids.kiddle.co/Sikhism>

Books:

Tell Me About the Sikhs by Mehta Nita

Sikh Stories by Anita Ganeri

We are Sikhs by Philip Blake

Other resources:

BBC Quiz

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-vaisakhi>

Sikh Net

<https://www.sikhnet.com/stories>