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Name:..... Form:.....

See pages 4 and 5 of Sikh gurdwara

What is a gurdwara?

A gurdwara is both a place where Sikhs go to worship together, and a centre for the Sikh community.



Q1. Who was the founder of Sikhism?

Q2. Where did Sikhism begin?

Q3. (i) What does the word gurdwara mean?

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(ii) Look at the drawing above. What does it mean?

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Q4. Name three things that the founder of Sikhism taught?

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Q5. What is the name of the Sikh holy book?

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Q6. What are two traditions of Sikhism that come from the Punjabi culture?

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Answers

1. **Guru Nanak Dev.**
2. **In the Punjab region of India and Pakistan.**
3. **(i) Doorway to the house of God.
(ii) Ik onkar, God is one.**
4. **That all people are equal; that there is one God; it is important to work hard, help others and always try to improve yourself.**
5. **The Guru Granth Sahib.**
6. **Many words used in Sikhism are in the Punjabi language; gurdwaras are often built in a Punjabi style; Sikhs often eat Punjabi food and wear Punjabi clothes.**

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To introduce some of the aspects of Sikhism.
- ▶ To introduce the Guru Granth Sahib.
- ▶ To introduce the relationship between Sikhism and the Punjab.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can understand that many Sikh traditions originated in the Punjab.
- ▶ The children know some of the basic beliefs of Sikhism.
- ▶ The children know that the Guru Granth Sahib is the Sikh holy book.

Teaching notes

Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak Dev (1469-1538). At that time India (which included modern day Pakistan) was ruled by the Moghuls (Muslims) but the majority of the population were Hindu. Nanak Dev was born into a well-off Hindu family. He began preaching his ideas in 1496 after having a

personal enlightenment in which he claimed to have spoken with God. Guru Nanak then spent the next 25 years travelling all over India and preaching his message of universal equality. At that time, the idea that everyone was equal was quite radical in caste-driven India.

After Guru Nanak died, there were nine further gurus, who expanded on his teachings and established Sikhism as a distinct religion. They are: Guru Angad Dev (1504-1552), Guru Amar Das (1479-1574), Guru Ram Das (1534-1581), Guru Arjan Dev (1563-1606), Guru Hargobind (1585-1644), Guru Har Rai (1630-1661), Guru Har Krishan (1656-1664), Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621-1675) and Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708).

Punjab was always a stronghold of Sikhism, and much of early Sikh history was spent fighting the Muslim rulers of India. When Moghul rule began to weaken in the late 18th century, the Sikhs were able to establish their own kingdom in Punjab. In 1849 the British annexed the Punjab and made it a province. With the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, the Punjab was split between the two countries.

Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to find out more about the history of the Sikh gurus and the Sikhs in the Punjab.

Resources

Secondary sources about the life of the Sikh gurus and about Sikh history. See www.sikh.org; www.sikh-history.com; www.ikonkar.com.