



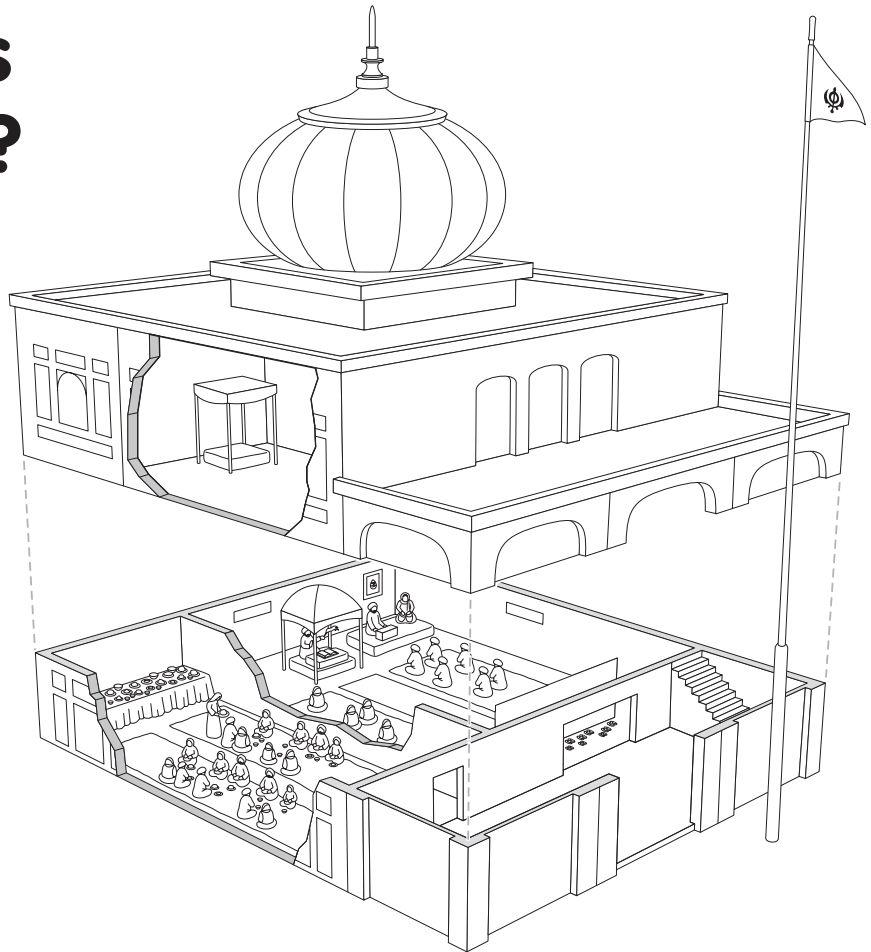
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Name:..... Form:.....

See pages 8 and 9 of Sikh gurdwara

What makes a gurdwara?

Many of the parts of the gurdwara are designed to remind people of some of the important lessons in Sikhism.



Q1. What happens in the darbar or diwan hall?

Q2. What is the langar used for?

Q3. (i) What is the name of the room where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept during the night?

.....

(ii) List one special thing about this room.

Q4. What can you find on the Sikh flag?

Q5. Why do many gurdwaras have doors on all four sides?

.....

Q6. Why is there always a light on in the gurdwara?

.....



Answers

1. **Group worship takes place and the Guru Granth Sahib is read out loud.**
2. **Sharing a meal after worship.**
3. **(i) Sachkand. (ii) It is the highest room in the gurdwara, it is the holiest room in the gurdwara.**
4. **The khanda, the symbol of Sikhism.**
5. **As a reminder that the gurdwara is open to everyone.**
6. **To show that God's light is always present and that anyone is welcome at any time.**

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To explore the parts of the gurdwara.
- ▶ To understand how a gurdwara is different from other buildings.

Teaching notes

Sikh temples began as gatherings inside the homes of Sikh leaders. After the Guru Granth Sahib was written down, any building, including a home, which has a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib was considered a gurdwara. Most Sikhs do not actually keep a copy of the Guru inside their homes, however, because of the responsibility entailed. For example, the Guru must have a room of its own, and anyone who goes into that room must bathe first.

Almost all of the gurus set up temples wherever they went or wherever they acquired a group of followers. Some of these early temples were inside houses, but a few were purpose built.

The second guru, Guru Angad, added classes in reading and writing to the temple activities and the third guru, Guru Amar Das, added the free kitchen to every temple.

The historical temples in India and Pakistan tend to follow the design styles of the Moghul Empire, which was a combination of Moghul (arches, domes, fountains) and Indian building styles and materials. Outside of India and Pakistan, Sikh temples are often built in local styles or in existing buildings. The only elements needed to make a building a gurdwara are that it must contain a copy of the Guru, have a Sikh flag and provide some type of free meal.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children understand the way that some of the rooms and features of a gurdwara are used in Sikhism.
- ▶ The children can describe the basic rooms and features of a gurdwara.

Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to learn more about the history of Sikhism and of the gurdwara.

Resources

See www.sikh-history.com for more information.