

Sikhism 1, The teaching of the gurus

Key learning

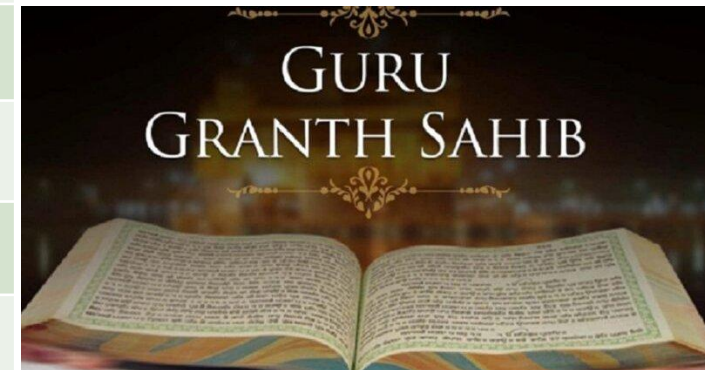
Vocabulary

Big Question

What do Sikhs learn from the gurus?

Prior Learning

1	The founder of Sikhism is Guru Nanak, who was born into a Hindu family
2	Sikhs demonstrate their membership of the Khalsa by committing to perform daily prayers and also by wearing the 5 K's. Items which represent beliefs that are fundamental to the Sikh faith.
3	The Sikh place of worship is called the Gurdwara.



- 1 Sikhs say that Nanak was neither a Hindu nor a Muslims. Nanak taught, just like Muslims, that there was only one God, the creator of all things. However, like Hindus, Nanak taught that after death, a person's soul entered into another life. Sikhs give Nanak a special title: **Guru Nanak**.
- 2 The word "**Guru**" comes from the ancient Sanskrit language and means much more than a teacher. "Guru" means a teacher who leads his followers from darkness into light. Many Sikhs say that "**guru**" means one who enlightens from others.
- 3 Guru Nanak was born into a Hindu family. An astrologer realised that Nanak would be respected, not just by the Hindus who lived in their village, but also by Muslims. Nanak taught that it did not matter how or where you worshipped God, in a temple or in a mosque. What mattered was that you worshipped God sincerely. All people were equal before God.
- 4 Guru Nanak enjoyed travelling. He loved to talk to people about what they believed and why they believed it. Sikhs call his journeys the **udasis**. An **udasis** is a long journey from home. Each **udasis** had an important teaching behind it.
- 5 Sikh does not mean a follower. Sikh is better understood to mean a learner, or a student. Sikhs do not worship the Guru as if he was divine. Nor do they regard Guru Nanak as a prophet. Sikhs heed the Guru and learn from him. They regard him as a great teacher, as a man who brought light: God's message of love to all who are willing to listen and learn.

1	imminent	about to happen or likely to happen soon.
2	cremated	dispose of (a dead person's body) by burning it to ashes, typically after a funeral ceremony.
3	revere	to respect or admire greatly.
4	profound	coming from or going to a great depth having a deep, thorough understanding.
5	dredged	a piece of equipment used to clear solid matter from the bottom of a body of water.
6	rendered	to cause to become; make.
7	invocation	the act or process of invoking, esp. of calling out to a god, muse, or the like, for help, support, or inspiration.
8	exquisite	very beautiful; made in a lovely or delicate way.
9	overshadowed	to cast a shadow or shadows over.
10	extinguished	to put out; stop the burning of.
11	infused	to introduce or inject, as if by pouring
12	naïve	simple, natural, and unsophisticated; lacking in suspicion.



National Treasures



Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha
Birmingham

Rights of the Child/Global Goals



This is a photograph of a langar in Spain. You can see men, women and children eating together.

Freedom of thought and religion (14)	Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn properly to use this right.
Minority, culture, language and religion (30)	Children have the right to use their own language, culture and religion even if these are not shared by most people in the country where they live.