



Sikhism

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ESSENTIAL SIKHISM VOCABULARY

gurbani	The term used by Sikhs to refer to writing done by Sikh Gurus.
sewa	Sewa means 'selfless service' and it is a way of life for many Sikhs.
langar	A communal free kitchen among Sikhs.
khanda	A vertical, two-edged sword with a blade surrounded by a circle. A Sikh emblem.
Guru Nanak	The founder of Sikhism.
kirtan	A Sikh devotional song, often about the life of Krishna.
kachera	Short trousers traditionally worn by Sikhs.
chauri	A ceremonial fan made of hair held over the holy book by the reader.
Guru Granth Sahib	The Sikh holy book.
amrit	A syrup drunk at religious observances such as baptism.
Gurdwara	A Sikh place of worship.

Main Beliefs of Sikhism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is only one God • God is neither male nor female • God is both sargun (the form that appears to the world) and nirgun (the 'formless' form which existed before creation) • Images of God are forbidden • God created the world and created people to know the difference between right and wrong • All people are equal

Sikh Festivals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hola Mohalla (a time for competitions where Sikhs show their athletic and martial art skills) • Diwali (a festival where the story of the sixth Guru, Hargobind, is told) • Guru Nanak's birthday, where the Guru Granth Sahib is carried through the streets by five men • Baisakhi (New Year's Day in the Punjab)

Religious Symbols
<p>The Khanda is made of three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Khanda (a vertical, double-edged sword representing the belief in one God) • The Chakkar (a circle representing God without beginning or end) • Two crossed kirpans (representing spiritual authority and political power) <p>The Ik Onkar means 'there is only one God'</p>



MAKING LINKS TO PREVIOUS LEARNING GOLDEN VOCABULARY

worship	Expression of respect or adoration for a deity.
praise	Expression of respect or gratitude towards a deity, especially in song.
congregation	A group of people gathered for religious worship.
faith	A strong belief in a god or teachings of a religion

World Religions	All world religions involve worship of the deity.
World Religions	In each world religion, the members praise the deity.
World Religions	Congregations gather together to worship the deity.
World Religions	Religious people have faith in their religion and god,

Sikhism
Sikhism is one of the world's youngest religions as it was founded about 500 years ago by Guru Nanak. It has over 20 million followers and is the fifth largest religion in the world. The word 'Sikh' means 'disciple' in Punjabi.

Guru Granth Sahib
The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy book in Sikhism and it contains messages to all the gurus. The last Guru did not appoint a human to follow him, but instead transferred his authority to the Sikh holy book and to the Guru Khalsa Panth (the community of committed Sikh believers). The Guru Granth Sahib is the only major religious text that includes writings from teachers of other faiths, such as Hindu and Muslim saints.

Gurdwaras
Sikhs worship both at home and in the Sikh temple called the Gurdwara (which means 'Gateway to the Guru'). Everyone must take off their shoes and cover their hair before entering the main prayer hall. Men and women sit cross-legged on opposite sides, facing the Guru Granth Sahib. All Gurdwaras share the same features.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The holy book (Guru Granth Sahib) • A langar (community kitchen where food is cooked by members of the community) • Four doors (showing that it is open to all) • The 'Nishan Sahib' (a yellow triangular flag with the Khanda symbol on it)

The 5 K's	
Kesh	To show obedience to God, Sikhs do not cut their hair.
Kangha	This is a wooden comb that helps Sikhs keep their hair in place.
Kara	This is a steel bangle or bracelet that reminds Sikhs to behave well.
Kachera	Shorts worn as underwear.
Kirpan	A small sword or knife worn by Sikhs.

