




KEY TERM	DEFINITION
Guru	A religious leader or teacher
Guru Nanak	The founder of Sikhism
Gurdwara	A place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. People from all faiths are welcome.
House of Doors	The meaning of the word Gurdwara is <i>the residence of the Guru</i> , or the door that leads to the Guru. It has 4 entrances to show it is always open to all.
Guru Granth Sahib	The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy scripture for Sikhs and is regarded as the living Guru.
Langar	The word 'langar' meaning 'community kitchen'.
Khalsa	To be pure, clear and free. It has an initiation ceremony and rules of conduct for Khalsa warriors. Upon initiation, male Khalsa Sikhs are given the title Singh and females Kaur.
The 5 Ks	The 5K,s are items of faith which display and show the wearer's conviction to God and are a constant reminder of their love for Him
Kara	An iron bracelet that is circular to symbolise that God is never ending.
Kesh	Uncut long hair and beard in the case of men that shows a sign of spiritual devotion as well as a respect for the perfection of God's creation.
Kanga	A small wooden comb used twice a day that is worn in the hair at all times and covered by a turban.
Kirpan	A dagger or sword of any size and shape which symbolises a Sikh's duty to come to the defence of others in peril. It should be worn at all times and is often covered in a sheath. The single cutting edge may be sharp or blunt.
Kacha	A shalwar-undergarment with a tie knot worn by baptised Sikhs. They must not come below the knee and were originally made as part of a Sikh soldier's uniform.
Sewa	Sewa, or selfless service, means supporting or giving to others with no expectation of reward.
Vaisakhi	A harvest festival in the Punjab which celebrates the founding of the Sikh community, the Khalsa, in 1699.


**Overview :** Sikhism is a monotheistic religion (belief in one god) that originated in India in the Punjab region. It is one of the youngest of the major religions having began around the end of the 15th Century and is the fifth largest organised religion in the world. Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak (1469-1539). Guru Nanak believed all humans are equal.


**Nature of God:** Sikhs believe that God is beyond human description. They believe that God has no gender and so is not male or female. Sikhs do use the 'he' and 'him' but only able to talk and write easily about God. They believe that any words used to describe God are inadequate because they are human words and so cannot describe fully the greatness that is God. Sikhs believe that God can be experienced because he reveals himself to individuals. Therefore, some of the words often used by Sikhs about God show him as someone who communicates with humans, for example Satnam (which means true name, personality); Shabad (word); and Guru (one who teaches or enlightens).





**Guru Granth Sahib:** The Guru Granth Sahib is the Sikh holy book. After the death of Guru Gobind Singh there were no more Gurus, so Sikhs were guided by their holy book. The GGS is a collection of the first five Gurus' writings in the form of a book. It also contains Hindu and Muslim poems, teaching Sikhs that there is always something that can be learned from others. It is treated like a living person and is given a special place to live/sit in the Gurdwara.

**Where do Sikhs worship?**  
  
 A Gurdwara. A meaning "Door to the Guru") is a place of assembly and worship for Sikhs. The first Gurdwara in the world was built by Guru Nanak in 1521-2 at Kartarpur. There are about 200 Gurdwaras in Britain.

**What is the Sikh Holy Book?**  
  
 The Guru Granth Sahib is always treated with respect: Sikhs bow to it and never turn their back on it; carry it above their heads; when it is being used it rests on a throne, under and canopy; and when it is not being used it is covered with special cloths.

**Holy Places?**  
  
 The Golden Temple. Sikh's visit the temple to show their respect and worship for the Guru Granth Sahib. The water surrounding the Golden Temple is called the Amrit Saras Kund (pool of immortality) and is believed to have miraculous healing powers.

**The Five K's**  
  
 The Five Ks are five items that Guru Go-bind Singh commanded Khalsa Sikhs to wear at all times. These aren't just symbols but are articles of faith.

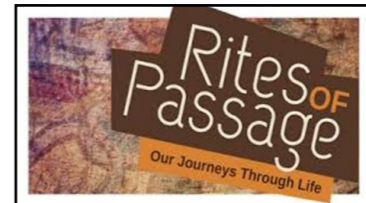
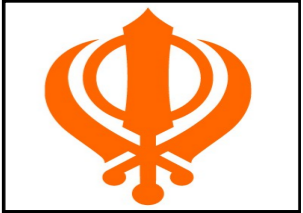
**Khalsa**  
  
 A community of Sikhs who are committed to their religion. It started when Guru Go-bind asked 'who is willing to die for their beliefs?' Today Sikhs usually join the Khalsa when they are teenagers.

Vaisakhi is a spring festival which happens on the 13 or 14 April every year. In 2024 Vaisakhi takes place on 13 April. It was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab until it became Sikhism's most important festival. On Vaisakhi, Sikhs go to the Gurdwara in the morning for a service. Afterwards, they have a procession through the streets with lots of singing, chanting and colorful clothes. The procession is called the Nagar Kirtan. In the evening, Sikhs have a special meal with family and friends.

After Guru Nanak there were 10 Guru's. Guru- religious teacher- broken down 'gu' means darkness and 'ru' means light so it makes to take someone from light to darkness. Gurus are not worshipped because they are not God.

TIMELINE OF GURUS	
1469-1539ce	Guru Nanak
1504-1552	Guru Angad
1479-1574	Guru Amar Das
1534-1581	Guru Ram Das
1563-1606	Guru Arjan
1595 -1644	Guru Hargobind
1630-1661	Guru Har Rai
1626-1664	Guru Har Krishan
1621—1675	Guru Teg Bahadar
1666-1708	Guru Gobind Singh
1708 -	Guru Granth Sahib

**Khanda**  
 This is the symbol of the Sikh faith.



**SIKH RITES OF PASSAGE**  
 Birth: Sikh naming ceremony  
 Amrit: Initiation and commitment to faith  
 Marriage  
 Death  
