



# What is the truth of the Baisakhi story?



Sikh Dharm states that there is only one God, Waheguru - the divine, absolute, ultimate reality. 'Waheguru' means 'wahe,' wonderful and awesome and 'guru' the divine which dispels the darkness of ignorance. Sikh Dharm is based on the spiritual teachings of Guru Nanak, the first Guru, and the ten successive Sikh Gurus.

## I Wonder Questions:

- What is the Baisakhi festival, and why is it so important to Sikhs?
- What is the Khalsa, and why did Guru Gobind Singh create it?
- How did the creation of the Khalsa change the Sikh community and their identity?
- What lessons can we learn from the Baisakhi story, and how can these lessons apply to our lives today?
- What is similar and different about the Baisakhi story and other religious stories of transformation or renewal?
- How has the Baisakhi story continued to influence Sikh beliefs and practices today?

## Prior Knowledge

- In Year 5 children learnt:
- What is meant by the term 'Guru'.
- Who the 10 Gurus were and why they are important/inspiration to Sikhs.
- Who Guru Gobind Singh was and why he is important to Sikhs.
- The teaching of Guru Nanak.
- Who Guru Gobind Singh and why he was important.
- How he was different to Guru Nanak and how their teaching was similar or different.
- About the Guru Granth Sahib and its importance.
- How the teaching of the gurus is reflected by Sikhs today.

## The fundamental beliefs of Sikh Dharm

The fundamental beliefs of Sikh Dharm are articulated in 'Gurū Granth Sāhib Ji' the everlasting sovereign eternal living Guru Ji and believers take all guidance in everyday thoughts and actions from Guru Ji. The manner of holding and respecting the living Guru Ji is unique and a visit to the gurdwara is a confirmation of this. The 1430 pages are based on the concept of one God for all.

The central belief is to achieve oneness with God in this life by: • the belief in One God, • respect all as equal in every aspect - recognise all belonging to a single class of humanity, • meditate, live a family life, work, share your bounties with the needy, • respect females as all are borne by their hard toil, • defend the oppressed ones, • forgive those who trespass but ensure safety of all, • recognise other peoples' viewpoints and evaluate with reasons their actions and views when considering our own responses to religious, philosophical, spiritual and nonspiritual dialogues.

It must be noted that 'Gurū Granth Sāhib Ji' is always placed on a throne (platform-like base) under a canopy and all the congregation sits on the ground.

## Sticky learning

### New Knowledge

- What is the truth about the Baisakhi story?*
- To know the symbolism of each of the 5Ks and why they are important to Sikhs.*
- To know that Baisakhi is celebrates the Sikh new year. To know when this is celebrated in the year.*
- To know what happened on Baisakhi/Vaisakhi Day and the story of Baisakhi.*
- To know what is meant by 'Khalsa'*
- To know the meaning of the Panj Pyare (5 beloved ones) and their role in the Khalsa brotherhood.*
- To know how Baisakhi is celebrated by the Sikh community*

### New Skills

- Describe and explain different ideas about God with reference to two religions or one religion and a non-religious worldview
- Ask important questions about social issues and suggest what might happen depending on different moral choices
- Consider the challenges of belonging to a religion or other belief system today with reference to their own and other people's views on human nature and society, supporting those views with reasons and examples.
- Use reasoning and examples to express insights into the relationship between beliefs, teachings and world issues, focusing on things that are important to them e.g. expressing their own views about their faith and religious responsibility.





Guru Nanak Founded - 1539	Guru Angad 1539-1552	Guru Amar Das 1552-1574	Guru Ram Das 1574-1581	Guru Arjan 1581-1606	Guru Har Gobind 1606-1644	Guru Har Rai 1644-1661	Guru Har Krishan 1661-1664	Guru Tegh Bahadur 1665-1675	Guru Gobind Singh 1675-1708	Guru Granth Sahib 1708 - onwards
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<b>A. Beliefs</b> teachings and sources of wisdom		<b>D. Identity, diversity and belonging</b> Places, communities, rites of passage	
<b>B. Practices and ways of life</b> Celebrations, prayer, worship and reflection		<b>E. Meaning, purpose and truth</b> Reflection and appreciation Ultimate questions	
<b>C. Forms of expressing meaning</b> language and symbolism		<b>F. Human responsibility and values</b>	

**Vocabulary revision**

Guru  
Wand Ke Shako  
Selfless Service  
Seva  
Langar  
The 5ks  
The Khalsa  
Kara  
Kanga  
Kachera  
Kesh  
Kirpan  
Gurdwara

**How sikhs aim to live their lives.**

Sikh Dham emphasises 'simran' (meditation on the words of the Gurū Granth Sāhib Ji) that can be expressed musically through kirtan or internally through Nam Japo to feel God's presence, and to have control over the Five Thieves. Sikh practices and lifestyles include: • to remain conscious of 'Truth' / 'Naam' / 'Word' and lead a virtuous life • early morning meditation and prayers • do daytime duties as required • conduct evening prayer • night prayer to thank Waheguru for everything Initiated Sikhs ritually wear five items, called the Five Ks. They are: • kesh (uncut hair) • kanga (small wooden comb) • kara (circular steel or iron bracelet) • kirpan (sword) • kacchera (special undergarment). The Five Ks have both practical and symbolic purposes. To keep their long hair clean and tidy men wear a turban while women wear a dupata (long scarf). **Vaisakhi/Baisakhi**

Vaisakhi is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar. It is the Sikh New Year festival and is celebrated on April 13 or 14. It also commemorates 1699, the year Sikhism was born as a collective faith. Vaisakhi is a long established harvest festival in the Punjab.

In 1699 the tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh, chose Vaisakhi as the occasion to transform the Sikhs into a family of soldier saints, known as the Khalsa Panth. known as the Panj Piare, or 'Beloved Five'. Vaisakhi is celebrated in much the same way as gurburbs. Gurdwaras are decorated and visited. Parades, dancing and singing happen throughout the day. Many Sikhs choose to be baptised into the Khalsa on this day

Visual representations



Khanda - This is the symbol of the Sikh faith.

**The Five Ks:**

<b>Kirpan</b> 		<b>Kachera</b> 
<b>Kanga</b> - comb 	<b>Kara</b> 	<b>Kesh</b> 
<b>Kirpan</b> - dagger 	<b>Kanga</b> 	



Sikh place of worship is a Gurdwara, literally meaning 'Guru's house,' is where one gets sanctuary, shelter, meals and all needs. Nearest places of worship are Brent Sikh Centre and ten Gurdwaras in Southhall. Sri Harmandir Sahib (the abode of God) is the holiest Gurdwara, located in the city of Amritsar, Punjab, India.

New Vocabulary

Waheguru - God, "Glorious Teacher"

Guru Granth Sahib - the holy book of Sikhism

Khalsa - community of initiated Sikh men and women

Gurburb - anniversary of a Guru's birth or death

Langar - kitchen, also the communal meal shared after worship

Prasad/parshad - a sweet vegetarian food that is received in cupped hands as a gift of God at the end of worship

Ardas - prayer

Panth - the community of Sikhs worldwide

Panj Piare- Beloved Five

Kaur - princess

Mool Mantar - Mool' means 'main' or 'root' and a mantra is a form of chant or verse