



Prior Knowledge

What do Sikhs believe about God?

Sikhs believe that there is only one God, who created everything. They believe that Waheguru must remain in the mind at all times. **Sikhism** is a way of life, and so Sikhs' beliefs reflect their actions on a daily basis and bring them closer to Waheguru.

Who was Guru Nanak?

Guru Nanak, (1469 – 1539) was an Indian spiritual teacher who was the first Guru of Sikhism, a monotheistic religion that combines Hindu and Muslim influences.

How is the life of a significant religious figure important to believers?

The most famous teachings attributed to **Guru Nanak** are that there is only one God, and that all human beings can have direct access to God with no need of rituals or priests. His most radical social teachings denounced the caste system and taught that everyone is equal, regardless of caste or gender.



New Knowledge

What is the inspirational writing that Sikhs follow?

The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the sacred text of the **Sikh** community and the embodiment of the Guru. It is central to the lives of devout Sikhs, both in the sense of being physically present in the gurdwara and as Sikhs' ultimate spiritual authority.



What are the special ways that Sikh writings are treated?

The **Guru Granth Sahib** is highly respected by all Sikhs, but this shouldn't be confused with worship. Sikhs believe the word of God is contained in the Guru Granth Sahib therefore it is treated with the same respect as the Ten Gurus.

In the **gurdwara**, the Guru Granth Sahib is placed on a raised throne and Sikhs sit below it to symbolise their respect and obedience. At important ceremonies the Guru Granth Sahib must be present and there is a continuous, forty-eight hour reading of the entire **scripture** before a religious festival. At home, Sikhs must keep the Guru Granth Sahib under a canopy in a separate room. As this is not possible for most Sikhs they may have a Gutka instead. This is a small book that contains extracts from the Guru Granth Sahib for use in daily prayer.

Where do Sikhs go to worship?

A **gurdwara** is a building in which Sikhs gather for congregational worship. However, wherever the Guru Granth Sahib is installed is a sacred place for Sikhs, whether this is a room in a private house or a gurdwara.



How do the practices in the Gurdwara symbolise equality?

Sikhs believe that everyone is equal. The **langar** in the gurdwara where people eat together, is a constant reminder of the equality of humanity. Sikhs believe that it is vital to serve others. Sikhism teaches that serving others is a way of serving God.

What happens at the festival of Vaisakhi and how is it celebrated?

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 colourful clothes. The procession is called the **Nagar Kirtan**. In the evening, Sikhs have a special meal with family and friends.