

Key Concepts & Core Knowledge

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. He was the first of 10 very special teachers called the Gurus. Important teachings Guru Nanak shared included:

- There is only one God (and the Ik Onkar - the Sikh symbol meaning there is only one God)
- All people are equal
- All humans can speak directly to God

All the Guru's demonstrate the three core theological beliefs:

- Remembering God: There is only one God –Waheguru. Everyone can speak directly to God
- Sharing and helping others-Seva
- Hard work is important

The Guru Granth Sahib is the Sikh holy text. It is always treated with the utmost respect, the same respect as a living Guru of the Sikhs.

Impact on believer / daily life

- Everyday life will reflect the moral code laid out in the example of the Gurus and in the Guru Granth Sahib
- Guru Gobind Singh (the 10th Guru) introduced many of the customs Sikhs practice today. He formed the Khalsa, which is a group of baptised Sikhs who have fully dedicated themselves to their faith, in 1699,
- Every Guru is important as they have helped to shape Sikhi as it is today

History / Context

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. He was born in 1469 in Pakistan and his family were Sanatanis (sometimes referred to as Hindu).

As a boy, he was keen to spend time with God and was always asking questions

One morning Guru Nanak was meditating by the river when he disappeared for 3 days

When he returned, he gave his possessions to the poor and spent years travelling sharing his message. He died in 1539.

Key Vocabulary

beliefs	Ideas that the person holding them thinks are true.
Guru	Guru means 'Teacher'. Guru Nanak is the founder of Sikhi.
Ik Onkar	Symbol used to represent the "One God." This symbol appears at the beginning of the Guru Granth Sahib (holy book)
responsibilities	Things a person has to do, often to help others.
role model	A person whose actions set an example or are copied by others.
Seva/Sewa	'selfless service'. It involves helping others in a variety of ways, without any reward or personal gain.
Vand ke chanka	To 'share food'
Waheguru	The most widely used Sikhi name for God. which means 'wondrous enlightener'. Sikhs believe that there is only one God, who created everything.
wise	A type of knowledge and understanding. People usually become wise through their experiences of life.

GURUS

	Name
1 st	Guru Nanak Dev
2 nd	Guru Angad Dev Ji-
3 rd	Guru Amar Das Sahib Ji
4 th	Guru Ram Das Ji
5 th	Guru Arjan Dev Ji
6 th	Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji
7 th	Guru Har Rai Ji
8 th	Guru Har Khrishan Ji
9 th	Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji
10 th	Guru Gobind Singh
	Guru Granth Sahib



Guru Nanak was the founder of the Sikhi religion.

Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa (a group of baptised Sikhs and introduced the wearing of the 5K's.

Guru Granth Sahib is the Sikhi holy text and is considered the last Guru.



Ik Onkar

Prior Learning

This enquiry revisits some of the learning from Year 1 and examines other gurus and their lives

Reflective questions

- What do I believe about working hard and sharing?
- Are there any special people in my life that have helped me act in the right way?

Link to other aspects of belief

- Worship in the Gurdwara
- Respecting the Guru Granth Sahib
- The Langar meal
- Vand Ke Chakna – sharing with others



Sikhi Ages 5-7 Enquiry 2: Why do Sikhs admire their gurus?

This enquiry revisits some of the learning from Enquiry 1 and examines other gurus and their lives. It examines some of the key Gurus and how their messages about how to live, impact on Sikhs today. “Guru” means teacher and Sikh means “learner”. Sikhs believe Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. Guru Nanak was born in 1469 in Pakistan . Guru Nanak’s family were Sanatanis (sometimes referred to as Hindu). As a boy, he was keen to spend time with God and was always asking questions. One morning Guru Nanak was meditating by the river when he disappeared for 3 days. When he returned, he gave his possessions to the poor and spent years travelling sharing his message. He died in 1539. Important teachings Guru Nanak shared included:

There is only one God (and the Ik Onkar - the Sikh symbol meaning there is only one God)

All people are equal

All humans can speak directly to God

The 10 Gurus are:

1st Guru Nanak Dev –Founder of the Sikh religion. He said, “There is only one God and that all people are equal.”

2nd Guru Angad Dev Ji- Created the Gujarati language which is used in the Guru Granth Sahib

3rd Guru Amar Das Sahij Ji -Believes we are all equal and stood up for women’s rights

4th Guru Ram Das Ji -Planned and created the Holy City of Amritsar which is a very special place for Sikhs

5th Guru Arjan Dev Ji - Built the Golden temple in India

6th Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji – Introduced martial arts so Sikhs could defend themselves

7th Guru Har Rai Ji- He was a vet and loved plants, animals and the environment. He believed everyone should have medical care even if they were poor. He opened hospitals.

8th Guru Har Krishan Ji -Youngest Guru -became a Guru when he was only 5. He was known for his healing powers

9th Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji- He spoke out for people who were poor, weak and vulnerable.

10th Guru Gobind Singh formed the Khalsa (a group of baptised Sikhs) and introduced the wearing of the 5Ks

Guru Gobind Singh was the last of the 10 human Gurus. He was the son of Guru Tegh Bahadur (the 9th Guru). He was born in 1666 and was only nine years old when his father died. As he grew older, he taught lots of people about Sikhi. He became a warrior and fought to protect Sikhs from harm.

Guru Gobind Singh introduced many of the customs Sikhs practice today. He formed the Khalsa, which is a group of baptised Sikhs who have fully dedicated themselves to their faith. In 1699, Guru Gobind Singh chose Baisakhi festival (Sikh New Year) as the moment to establish the Khalsa. Members join the Khalsa through a special ceremony-the Amrit ceremony.

Guru Gobind Singh also introduced the wearing of the 5K’s for members of the Khalsa. He also created the Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Sikh holy text) and many of the customs he introduced are still practiced by Sikhs today.

Guru Gobind Singh completed the Adi Granth which contained all the teachings of the previous 9 Gurus. He announced that after his death, there would be no more human Gurus. He also changed the name of the Sikh holy book to The Guru Granth Sahib. This book contains stories, songs (hymns) and teachings of all the Gurus as well as teachings from Muslim and Sanatani writers. The Guru Granth Sahib describes God and teaches Sikhs how to live a good life. The Guru Granth Sahib therefore became the eternal Guru.

All the Guru’s demonstrate the three core theological beliefs:

Remembering God: There is only one God –Waheguru. Everyone can speak directly to God

Sharing and helping others-Seva

Hard work is important

Every Guru is important as they have helped to shape Sikhi as it is today.