

CurriculumVisions Lesson 1

Students: fill in next to the word answer and return the document for assessment.

Religion

The Gurdwara

Book: Sikh Gurdwara

Everything here is based on our Curriculum Visions book Sikh Gurdwara.

In this segment, we are going to think about how the different ways in which the Sikh Gurdwara is used.

You will need to go to pages 4 and 5.

Read the text on these pages. Who was the founder of Sikhism? Why are many of the traditions and aspects of the Sikh religion from the Punjab?

Answer.....

Founder: Guru Nanak Dev. Guru Dev lived in the Punjab and many Sikhs are Punjabi, so many of the traditions of Sikhism are Punjabi.

Read the text and look at the pictures on pages 6 and 7. What are the 5 Ks? Can you describe them? What do they stand for?

Answer.....

Kara: a simple steel bracelet that reminds Sikhs to be strong, and that God has no beginning or end

Kirpan: a small sword which is a reminder that a Sikh should always be ready to protect the weak

Kacha: a type of underwear that allows the wearer to move freely but also protects modesty, so they are always ready to move quickly to defend others

Kesh: uncut hair – Sikhs often leave their hair uncut as a reminder to live in harmony with God

Khanga: a comb – a reminder of the importance of keeping neat and clean

Look at the illustration of a gurdwara on pages 6 and 7. What are the two main parts of the gurdwara and what are they used for? What are two symbols you can see on the outside of the gurdwara.

Answer.....

The darbar or diwan hall, where worship services take place. The langar, where people share a meal.

Symbols: the Sikh flag (nishan sahib) and the khanda.

Read about the darbar on pages 10 and 11 and look at the pictures. Why does the platform that holds the Guru Granth Sahib look like a throne? Why do worshippers sit on the floor?

Answer.....

The platform looks like a throne to show respect for the Guru Granth Sahib. Worshippers sit on the floor as a reminder that no one is higher or lower than anyone else - they are all equal.

What are three different ways that people show respect to the Guru Granth Sahib? Read pages 12 and 13 to help you.

Answer.....

They bow or kneel in front of the Guru Granth Sahib, they do not turn their back to it, they do not point their feet at it. Also: the person reading waves a fan over it; it is put away at night in the highest room in the gurdwara.

Read pages 14 and 15 and list some of the things that take place during worship services in the darbar?

Answer.....

Bow or kneel to the Guru Granth Sahib, leave offerings, greet the congregation, sing hymns, listen to music, listen to a reading of the Guru Granth Sahib, say prayers, share khanda parshad.

Read pages 16 and 17. What are some ways that the idea of everyone being equal is demonstrated in the langar?

Answer.....

People all sit together. People sit on the floor so no one is higher or lower than anyone else. Everyone eats the same food. No one pays anything for the food.

What are some types of festivals or special days that are celebrated at the gurdwara? What are some of the ways in which they are celebrated?

Answer.....

Festivals for the gurus (gurupurabs), new year, amrit ceremony
Celebrations may include akhand path, hymns, music, lectures, talks, processions, giving out food and drink

Read pages 20 and 21 and look at the pictures. What are some of the things you might do when you visit a gurdwara?

Answer.....

Take you shoes off, wash your feet, cover your head, see works of art, watch and listen to worship, sit on the floor, eat a meal at the langar

Look at the pictures and read the text about the Golden Temple at Amritsar on pages 22 and 23. What are some of this gurdwara's unique features?

Answer.....

Gold leaf, it is built in a lake, it has many shrines that remember important events in Sikhism, plaques commemorating Sikhs who died in wars, dormitories for guests

That is the end of this worksheet. Find out if your teacher has left you any other worksheets or special instructions on your school website.

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