

What the darbar is used for

The darbar is where the Sikh holy book is seen and read from during worship.

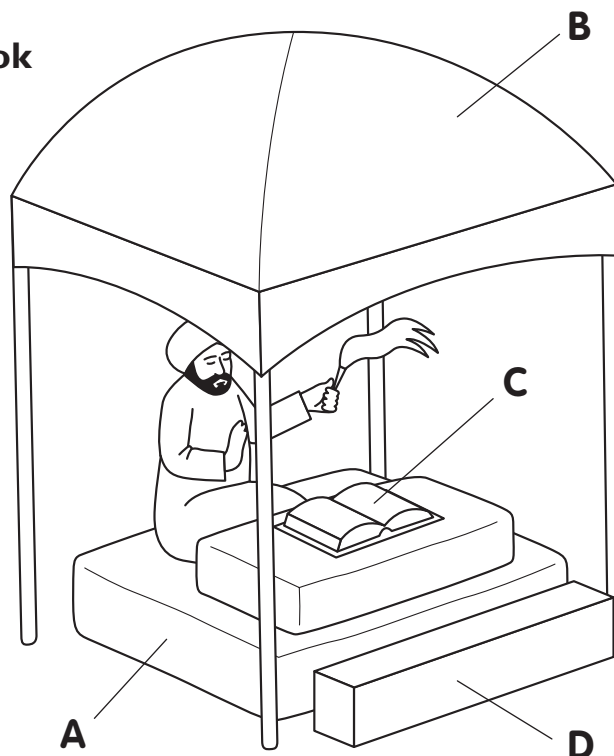
Q1. Give the name of the things labelled A to D in this drawing.

A 

B 

C 

D 



Q2. What are two things that Sikhs might leave as offerings in the darbar?





Q3. What are the offerings used for?





Q4. Why are there usually no chairs in the darbar?





Q5. Who are the people who sit on one side of the takht?



Q6. What are two types of art that you might see in the darbar?







Answers

1. **A=takht; B=palki; C=Guru Granth Sahib; D=offering boxes.**
2. **Food and money.**
3. **To support the costs of running the gurdwara and the langar.**
4. **Because worshippers sit on the floor.**
5. **Musicians (ragis).**
6. **Pictures of the ten Sikh gurus, stained glass, Sikh words or symbols.**

Lesson objectives

- To examine some of the things in a darbar.
- To help the children understand what the parts of the darbar are used for during worship.

Lesson outcomes

- The children can describe the basic features of a darbar.
- The children understand the importance of the main items in the darbar, and their role in Sikh worship.

Teaching notes

Takht and palki

The word palki means palanquin. It is taken from the palanquins that important people used to ride around in when Sikhism began. The word takht means throne or seat of authority. The word also refers to five special Sikh gurdwaras in Punjab (called the five takht) which act as the seats of Sikh religious authority. Important decisions concerning the religious and social life of the Sikh community are discussed at these gurdwaras.

In the gurdwara, however, the word takht refers to the throne which the Guru rests on

whenever it is in the darbar. When it is on the takht, the Guru rests on cushions and is covered with a clean cloth. The cloth is lifted whenever the Guru is being read from. Traditionally, the takht and the palki are decorated in beautiful designs.

Art in the darbar

Sikhs do not believe in using incense or candles or any similar objects in worship. This was, in part, a rejection of the elaborate Hindu worship practices used when Sikhism was founded. Although Sikhs do not believe in worshipping images, you can often see paintings of the ten Sikh Gurus in the darbar, but these are intended as reminders, not as objects of worship.

Complementary work

The children can look at photos and descriptions of Sikh art.

Resources

See www.sikhnet.com/s/Gallery/; www.asianart.org (online site of a US museum devoted to Sikh art).