



Name:..... Form:.....

See **pages 12 and 13** of Sikh gurdwara

The Guru Granth Sahib

The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the most important thing in the gurdwara.

Q1. Give one way that the Guru Granth Sahib is treated like a living religious leader.



.....



.....

Q2. Where is the Guru Granth Sahib put at night?



.....

Q3. (i) What is waved over the Guru Granth Sahib whenever it is in the darbar?



.....

(ii) What does this remind people of?



.....



.....

Q4. Give two ways that Sikhs show respect for the Guru Granth Sahib.



.....



.....

Q5. What are two tasks that the granthi does in the gurdwara?



.....



.....

Answers

1. People consult the **Guru Granth Sahib** for help with problems or to name a child.
2. In the **sachkand**.
3. (i) **Chauri**.
(ii) It reminds people of how royalty was treated in ancient Punjab.
4. Never turn their back to it; never point their feet at it; kneel in front of it when they enter the **darbar**.
5. Takes care of the **Guru**; reads from the **Guru**; puts the **Guru** away at night; performs marriages and gives sermons.

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To show the importance of the **Guru Granth Sahib** in Sikhism.
- ▶ To show ways in which the **Guru Granth Sahib** is treated with respect.
- ▶ To introduce students to the **granthi**.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can describe some of the ways in which Sikhs show respect to the **Guru Granth Sahib**.
- ▶ The children understand the importance of the **Guru Granth Sahib** to Sikhs.
- ▶ The children know who the **granthi** is and some of the jobs the **granthi** does.

Teaching notes

*The **Guru Granth Sahib** (which is often referred to simply as the **Guru**, or the **Adi Granth**, or more formally as the **Sri Guru Granth Sahib**) is considered the supreme spiritual authority and head of the Sikh religion. The original version was compiled by the fifth **Guru** (**Guru Arjan Dev**) as a way to record the authentic sayings and writings of the gurus. Later gurus added to*

*the book, which was completed in 1705 by the tenth **Guru** (**Guru Gobind Singh**).*

*The majority of the **Guru** is written in the standard Punjabi dialect of the 17th century, but parts of the **Guru** are written in Persian, Hindi, Sanskrit and Arabic – the **Guru** contains writings not only by Sikh Gurus, but by Muslim and Hindu holy men as well. All of the hymns are written in a Punjabi script called **Gurmukhi**. The **Guru** is exactly 1,430 pages long. The majority of the writings in the **Guru** are hymns and poems which are meant to be sung, so it is easy to see why music is so important in Sikh worship.*

Granthi

*The word **granthi** means “the keeper and reader of the Sikh scripture”. The **granthi** is different from a Christian priest or a Jewish rabbi in that they are not ordained and so do not have any special right to perform or control worship or to judge religious matters. The **granthi** is more of a functionary, although they must be well versed in Sikh scripture and able to easily read **Gurmukhi** and speak Punjabi. For this reason, **granthis** are treated with a great deal of respect. The members of a gurdwara usually elect or nominate someone to act as the **granthi**, and a large gurdwara may have several. In many gurdwaras, a different person acts as **granthi** each day.*

Complementary work

Let the children use secondary sources to find out more about the **Guru Granth Sahib**.

Resources

Secondary sources about the **Guru** can be found at: www.sikhs.org/english/frame.html (english translation of **Guru**); www.sikhnet.com/s/GuruGranthSahib (translations, readings in audio files); www.sikhs.org/granth.htm (general information, history and translations).