

Sikhism

Sikhism is one of the most recently founded faiths and is the fifth largest religion in the world. Sikhs believe that there is only one God, who cannot be described as either male nor female. Sikhs believe that God created the world and created people to know the difference between right and wrong. Images of God are forbidden as is worshipping them. Sikhism considers all people to be equal.



Symbols in Sikhism

The Khanda is the main symbol of Sikhism.
The Ik Onkar means "there is only one God".

Key Vocabulary

Sikh	Someone who follows Sikhism.
Guru	A spiritual teacher.
Guru Nanak	The founder of Sikhism.
gurdwara	A Sikh place of worship.
Guru Granth Sahib	The Sikh holy text.
Sargun	The belief that God is everywhere and in everything.
Nirgun	The belief that God is above and beyond everything.
Nam Japna	The duty of keeping God in mind at all times.
Kirt Karna	The duty of earning an honest living and avoiding crime, begging and gambling.
Vand Chhakna	The duty of giving to charity and caring for others.
shabads	Sacred hymns in the Guru Granth Sahib.



Key Questions

- What is a Sikh? What is a Guru?
- What do Sikhs believe about God?
- How do Sikhs show they belong?
- What is the Gurdwara? What is the Langar?
- How do Sikhs worship God?
- What is the Guru Granth Sahib? What are the 5Ks?

Sikh Worship

Sikhs worship both in public and in private. Sikhs worship together in the gurdwara. The word gurdwara means 'door to the Guru'.

Shoes must be removed and hair covered before entering the main prayer hall to worship. Men and women sit cross-legged on opposite sides, facing the Guru Granth Sahib.

God is referred to by many names, including:

- Waheguru (Wonderful Teacher);
- Sath Nam (Eternal Reality);
- Akal Purakh (Eternal One).

Sri Hamandir Sahib



The Sri Harmandir Sahib is also known as the Golden Temple. It is located in Amritsar, India. Its doors open from all sides to welcome people of all faiths.

The Ten Gurus



There were ten Gurus who spread God's message: Guru Nanak, Guru Angad, Guru Amar Das, Guru Ram Das, Guru Arjan, Guru Hargobind, Guru Har Rai, Guru Harkrishan, Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh.