

The Beginning of Sikhi

Sikhi was founded in India by Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who lived over 500 years ago. Sikhi is one of the world's most followed religions. Today, there are over 25 million followers worldwide.

Who was Guru Nanak Dev Ji?

Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born in India in 1469, in a small town called Talwandi. His father wanted him to make money in the city but Guru Nanak Dev Ji wanted to help those in need instead. Once, his father sent Guru Nanak Dev Ji into town with 20 rupees and told him to make some money, but he spent it on buying food for some hungry monks. His father was furious with Guru Nanak Dev Ji and he was sent to live with his sister.



Guru Nanak Dev Ji's first job was as a shopkeeper. He explained his ideas about how to love and follow God to his customers. He began to be known as 'Guru', which means 'teacher', because of this.

When he was 30 years old, Guru Nanak Dev Ji disappeared for three days. When he returned, he said that he had been with God. From then on, he spread God's message that everyone was equal. He made sure that his followers all prayed together and ate together, no matter if they were rich or poor.

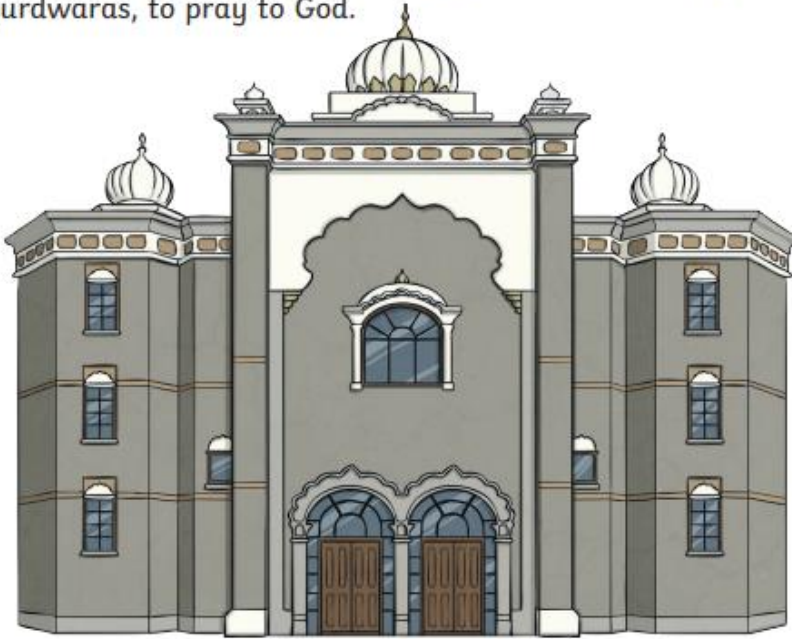
Before he died, Guru Nanak Dev Ji told his followers that one of them, Guru Angad Dev Ji, would become Guru after him. In total, there have been ten gurus. The tenth guru, Guru Gobind Singh Sahib Ji, said that after his death, the next guru would be the scripture from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.. It is known as the 'living guru'.

Celebrating Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Every year, Sikhs celebrate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday. They read scripture from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, light candles and hold firework displays. Children receive new clothes and have the day off school to join in the celebrations.

Did You Know...?

The followers of Sikhi are known as 'Sikhs', which means 'learners'. Sikhs go to special places of worship, called gurdwaras, to pray to God.



Copy out the questions into your homework book.

1. How many people follow Sikhi worldwide? Tick one.

- 2 million
- 5 million
- 25 million
- 250 million

2. What was the name of the town Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born in? Tick one.

- India
- gurdwara
- Angad
- Talwandi

3. Find and copy one word that means **the same**.

4. Name three things that Sikhs do to celebrate Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birthday.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

5. What name is the scripture from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji sometimes called?

6. Why do you think Guru Nanak Dev Ji's father was angry with him for spending his money on feeding the hungry monks?
