

Understanding Sikhism

Learning objective: To understand the key beliefs, practices, and symbols of the Sikh faith.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. Use full sentences in your answers.

Pip the bookworm is learning about Sikhism. He discovers that Sikhs believe there is one God and that everyone is equal, regardless of where they come from or how much money they have. Pip reads that the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, is treated with great respect and is the spiritual guide for all Sikhs.

One day, Pip visits a Gurdwara, which is a Sikh place of worship. Inside, he notices that people remove their shoes and cover their heads as a sign of respect. He is most excited to visit the Langar. This is a free community kitchen where everyone sits together on the floor to eat a vegetarian meal. This tradition shows that no one is more important than anyone else.

Pip also learns about the 'Five Ks', which are five physical symbols that many Sikhs wear to show their commitment to their faith. One of these is the Kara, a steel bracelet. Pip thinks it is wonderful how the Sikh faith focuses on kindness, honesty, and helping others in the community.

Word bank: Gurdwara · Langar · Guru · Equality · Community

1. What is the name of the Sikh place of worship? (1 mark)

2. Which symbol from the 'Five Ks' is a steel bracelet? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think people remove their shoes and cover their heads inside the Gurdwara? (2 marks)

4. How does the tradition of the Langar show the belief that everyone is equal? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, why is it important for a community to have a free kitchen like the Langar? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Langar, showing people from all different backgrounds sitting together to share a meal.



Extension challenge: Can you research the other four symbols of the 'Five Ks' and write a sentence explaining what each one is?