

A Visit to the Gurdwara

Learning objective: To understand the key features and community values within the Sikh faith.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions. Use your knowledge of religious practices to provide detailed answers.

Ellie the elephant visited a local Gurdwara to learn more about the Sikh faith. As she entered, she noticed everyone had covered their heads and removed their shoes as a sign of respect. Inside, the atmosphere was peaceful. The centre of the room held the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of Sikhism, which was placed on a raised platform under a canopy. Ellie learned that Sikhs treat the scripture with the same respect as a living Guru.

One of the most important parts of the Gurdwara is the Langar, or community kitchen. Here, volunteers perform 'seva', which is selfless service. They prepare and serve vegetarian meals to anyone who visits, regardless of their background or beliefs. Ellie watched as people sat together on the floor to eat. This practice promotes the Sikh belief in equality, showing that everyone is equal in the eyes of God. By sharing food, the community builds strong bonds and demonstrates the importance of helping others. Ellie felt inspired by how the Gurdwara serves as both a place of worship and a welcoming home for the whole community.

Word bank: Gurdwara · Langar · Seva · Guru Granth Sahib · Equality · Community

1. Identify two things visitors must do when entering a Gurdwara as a sign of respect. (2 marks)

2. What is the name of the holy scripture found in a Gurdwara, and how is it treated? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think Sikhs choose to sit on the floor when eating in the Langar? (2 marks)

4. What does the concept of 'seva' suggest about the values of the Sikh community? (2 marks)

5. Do you think the Langar is an effective way to bring a community together? Justify your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the Langar hall showing people from different walks of life sitting together and sharing a meal, reflecting the Sikh value of equality.



Extension challenge: Research the 'Five Ks' of Sikhism. Write a short paragraph explaining what they are and why they are significant to initiated Sikhs.