

Exploring the Sikh Tradition: The Gurdwara

Learning objective: To identify and understand the significance of key features and symbols found within a Sikh Gurdwara.

Use the drawing prompt below to create a detailed illustration of a Gurdwara. Use the word bank to label your diagram accurately. Ensure you include the key features that represent the values of equality and community service within the Sikh faith.

Draw: Draw a panoramic view of a Gurdwara. Include a tall, saffron-coloured flag (Nishan Sahib) in the foreground. In the centre, draw the main building with a dome. Inside the main room (Darbar Sahib), sketch the Guru Granth Sahib resting on a raised platform (palki). On the side, draw an area representing the Langar Hall with simple floor seating. Use a clean, architectural style. Add the Khanda symbol on the exterior wall.



Label words: Nishan Sahib · Guru Granth Sahib · Langar Hall · Darbar Sahib · Khanda · Diwan

Steps:

1. Explain why the Langar (community kitchen) is considered a fundamental part of a Gurdwara. How does it promote the Sikh value of equality?
2. What might happen if a Gurdwara did not have an open-door policy? Justify your answer using the concept of Seva.

3. Compare and contrast the role of the Nishan Sahib with a flag found on a public building. What does the Nishan Sahib specifically represent?
4. Label the Nishan Sahib on your drawing. Why is it placed in a prominent, elevated position outside the building?
5. Describe the atmosphere inside the Darbar Sahib. Use rich vocabulary to explain how the physical environment encourages focus and meditation.
6. Identify the Khanda symbol. Explain the significance of the double-edged sword and two kirpans within this emblem.