

Sikhism – Why are Gurus so important to Sikhs?

Key Vocabulary

gurdwara - A Sikh place of worship.

Guru - Spiritual teacher.

Guru Nanak - The founder of Sikhism.

Guru Granth Sahib - The Sikh holy text.

nirgun - The belief that God is above and beyond everything.

sargun - The belief that God is everywhere and in everything.

Sikh - Someone who follows Sikhism.

Sikhism - One of the world's main religions.



Guru Nanak travelled around different parts of India, learning about and teaching God's message.

The people who listened to him were known as 'Sikhs', a word which means 'learner'. Nanak became known as Guru Nanak, God's teacher.

The Guru Granth Sahib

The **Guru Granth Sahib** is the **Sikh** holy book. It contains the messages of all the **Gurus**. It is covered by a rumala when not in use.

The chaur is made from yak's hair. It is waved over the **Guru Granth Sahib** as a sign of respect.

The **Guru Granth Sahib** contains 5867 **shabads**, which were written by six of the ten **Gurus**. They are known as Gurbani (the word of the **Gurus**). The introduction includes the 'Mool Mantar', which contains all the important **Sikh** beliefs.

The 5 Ks

Kesh: **Sikhs** leave hair uncut to show obedience to God.

Kangha: A wooden comb that helps **Sikhs** to keep their hair in place.

Kara: A steel bangle that reminds **Sikhs** to behave well.

Kachera: These are shorts worn as underwear.

Kirpan: A tiny sword worn by **Sikhs**.



Guru Nanak
1469-1539



Guru Amar Das
1479-1574



Guru Angad
1504-1552



Guru Ram Das
1534-1581



Guru Arjan
1563-1606



Guru Hargobind
1595-1644



Guru Har Rai
1630-1661



Guru Har Krishan
1656-1664



Guru Tegh Bahadur
1621-1675



Guru Gobind Singh
1666-1708