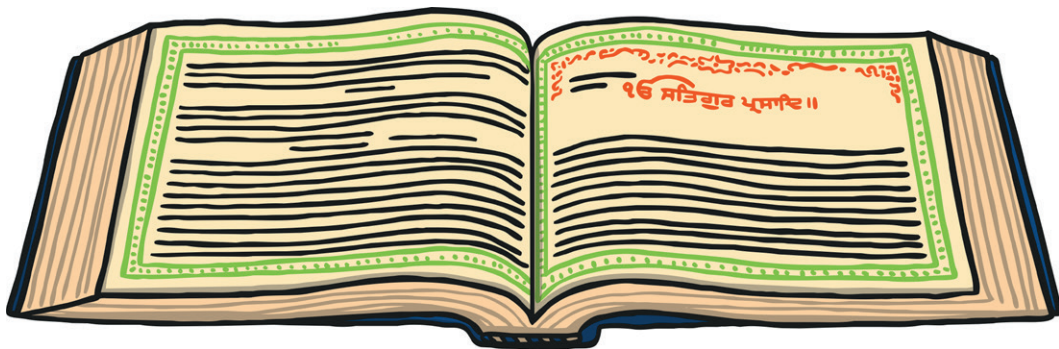


# The Beginning of Sikhism

- Sikhism was founded by Guru Nanak over 500 years ago.
- The title 'guru' means 'teacher'.
- Guru Nanak taught his followers that everyone was equal.

## Who was Guru Nanak?

- Guru Nanak was born in India.
- His first job was as a shopkeeper. He told people who came to the shop about how to love and follow God.
- People called him 'Guru' because he taught them about God.
- He travelled around India, spreading God's message that everyone is equal.
- When Guru Nanak died, Guru Angad became the next guru. He continued to spread Guru Nanak's message.
- Sikhs go to a gurdwara to pray.



# Questions

1. What does the word 'guru' mean? Tick one.

- God
- teacher
- friend
- shopkeeper

2. What was Nanak's first job? Tick one.

- farmer
- teacher
- shopkeeper
- writer

3. Where was Nanak born? Tick one.

- India
- the UK
- the USA
- Egypt

4. What did Guru Nanak teach his followers? Tick one.

- That rich people are better than poor people.
- That poor people are better than rich people.
- That everyone is equal.
- That he is better than everyone.

5. Where do Sikhs go to pray? Tick one.

- a gurdwara
- Angad
- India
- shops

# Answers

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# The Beginning of Sikhism

Sikhism is one of the world's most followed religions. It was founded by Guru Nanak, who lived over 500 years ago. The people who follow Sikhism are called Sikhs and they go to a special building called a gurdwara to pray.

## Who was Guru Nanak?

Nanak was born in 1469, in a small town in India. His father wanted him to make money in the city but Nanak wanted to help those in need instead.

His 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 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, no matter if they were rich or poor.

People all over India began to follow Guru Nanak. His followers became known as 'Sikhs', which means 'learners'.

When Guru Nanak died, Guru Angad became the next guru. Guru Angad continued to spread Guru Nanak's message.

## Celebrating Guru Nanak

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

# Questions

1. What does the word 'Sikh' mean? Tick one.

- India
- guru
- teacher
- learner

2. When was Guru Nanak born? Tick one.

- 1959
- 1469
- 1569
- 1669

3. What is the name of the Sikh holy book? Tick one.

- Guru Nanak
- gurdwara
- Guru Angad
- Guru Granth Sahib

4. What was Guru Nanak's message to his followers?

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5. Name something that Sikhs do to celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday.

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# Answers

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- Guru Nanak
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- Guru Granth Sahib**

4. What was Guru Nanak's message to his followers?

**That everyone was equal, no matter if they were rich or poor.**

5. Name something that Sikhs do to celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday.

**Any one from: read from the Guru Granth Sahib (holy book), light candles, let off fireworks, children get new clothes, children get the day off school.**



# The Beginning of Sikhism

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

## Who was Guru Nanak?

Nanak was born in India in 1469, in a small town called Talwandi. His father wanted him to make money in the city but Nanak wanted to help those in need instead. Once, his father sent Nanak 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 Nanak and he was sent to live with his sister.



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

### Celebrating Guru Nanak

Every year, Sikhs celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday. They read from their holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, 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 Sikhism are known as 'Sikhs', which means 'learners'. Sikhs go to special temples, called gurdwaras, to pray to God.





# Questions

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

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

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

- India
- gurdwara
- Angad
- Talwandi

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

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

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What name is the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, sometimes called?

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

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**equal**

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5. What name is the holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, sometimes called?

**the living guru**

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

**Pupils' own response, e.g. He was angry at Nanak because he didn't do as he was told. His father thought it was a waste of money as he didn't care about helping those in need.**