

Year 3&4 Key Stage 2



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Resource File

## Year 4 units of work - Sikhism - The Khalsa





# Lesson 7 The Khalsa

## The big picture

This lesson looks at the founding of the Khalsa by the last human Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. After Guru Nanak, he is the most respected Guru.

During the 200 years after Guru Nanak's death, things had been changing in India. During the time of the first five Gurus there was peace and religious tolerance. Later though, there was persecution of non-Muslims and two Gurus were martyred.

The later Gurus had to think about how to make believers strong and protect their freedom and beliefs. Guru Gobind Singh became Guru at nine years old, after his father was martyred. Despite losing four sons to the persecution he continued to preach equality, love and peace, whilst insisting on strength and commitment from believers.

This lesson allows people to consider the qualities needed for believers to stick with their beliefs when things get tough, and also ways in which symbols of membership can encourage a sense of community.

## Learning objective

- To know the nature and origins of the Khalsa and to consider the advantages and disadvantages of religious commitment and membership.

## Success criterias

### Learning about

- Pupils will know the origins and nature of the Khalsa.

### Learning from

- Pupils will have considered the benefits and responsibilities of religious membership.

## Religious Education Council Requirements

A1, A3, B2, B3

## Resources

- **Resource sheet 4:** 'The story of the forming of the Khalsa' (from the 'Becoming an adult' unit)
- **CD Image gallery, page 16:** The five Ks
- **Resource sheet 10:** 'The five Ks'

## Vocabulary

Five Ks, Guru Gobind Singh, Kachera, Kangha, Kara, Kesh, Khalsa, Kirpan, panj piare

## Key questions ?

*When and why did the Khalsa begin?  
What do you believe in? Would anything change your mind?*

## Introduction

Share the learning objective: 'In this lesson we are going to hear how Sikhs show they are going to stick with their religion. You will also get a chance to think about what you believe in strongly enough to suffer for.'

Ask the class if they can remember, from the previous session, what they feel are the qualities of a good leader. Explain that today they are going

to hear about the most respected Sikh Guru after Guru Nanak. Explain that he was only nine years old when he became Guru, but he already had all the qualities he would need to lead the Sikh faith. He challenged individual believers to look at their own personal qualities and to think how much they believed in their faith.

## Activities

### Stimulus

Tell the class that it was beginning to get tough to be a Sikh in the time of Guru Gobind Singh. Explain how the rulers at the time were trying to force everyone to belong to one religion, and if they did not agree with this they were killed.

Ask people to think about something they believe in really strongly. It might be religious, but it might be about supporting a team, or about how something should be done. Ask them to think of how they could complete this statement for themselves:

- 'I believe that...'

When this is done, ask them to think if there is anything that could change their mind. What about if something bad happened? How about if their team never won? What about if they suddenly became rich? Or poor?

Introduce the idea of persecution and how many people in the past and around the world today have to decide if their beliefs are important enough to suffer for. Explain that when this happens, true believers often stick together to help each other. Guru Gobind Singh formed a group of Sikhs that would help them stick with their beliefs, even if things got tough.

Share the story of the forming of the Khalsa (see resource sheet 4 from the 'Becoming an adult' unit). Read resource sheet 10: 'The five Ks'. There are images of the five Ks on page 16 of the image gallery.

### Response

Concentrate people's attention on the five Ks. Make sure they understand that each of these is an outward symbol of an internal decision or belief. They are more than just badges of belonging, they are a way of showing a depth of conviction.

Tell people you want them to record the five Ks in any way that is helpful for them to explain not just what they are, but also their significance. They may wish to write, draw, paint, model, or create a PowerPoint or oral presentation. Whatever medium is offered or chosen ensure that they don't just recycle the source material, but bring to their response an understanding of why the five Ks and the Khalsa are important to believers.

## Plenary

Ask people to tell each other and remind themselves of the five Ks, ensuring they also remember the significance of each. Ask them to think again about the issue of persecution. Raise the fact that, in this country, anyone can follow whichever religion they believe is right. They should not be worried about people telling them they are wrong or being horrible to them. Ask the class to think if that is also true in the playground. If your school does not have a very mixed intake from different religious communities, discuss how someone new to the school and wearing a turban would be welcomed. If there is greater representation, discuss the perceived levels of tolerance and how individuals could make a difference.

To end the lesson, people could copy and complete the following sentence:

- 'Looking at the Sikh community today, I have been thinking about...'

## Differentiation

(By task) all members of the class, except those with very specific needs, should be able to participate in this lesson. You may wish to model a particular response, asking people to copy and adapt it to make it their own.

## Extension

The open-ended nature of the task should lead to more sophisticated outcomes from more able people.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The five Ks

### **Kesh:** uncut hair

Guru Gobind Singh, like the other nine Gurus, did not cut his hair. He ordered his followers to do the same, as a sign of devotion to God. Many men wear a turban to keep their hair clean and tidy.



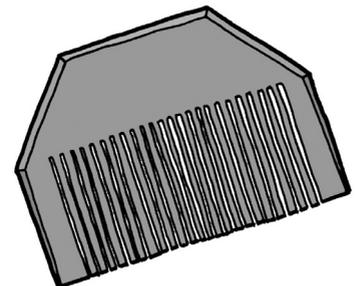
### **Kara:** steel wrist band

The circle is to remind Sikhs that God is one and that the Khalsa is one fellowship. Steel is a strong metal and reminds Sikhs to be strong and stand up for what is right.



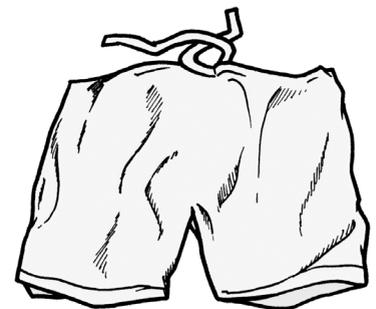
### **Kangha:** comb

The hair should be kept clean and tidy. Sikhs wear a small comb in their hair as a reminder to be tidy in both their appearance and to keep a clean and well behaved lifestyle.



### **Kachera:** undershorts

Kachera remind Sikhs to be self-controlled, even in the unseen areas of their lives.



### **Kirpan:** sword

Guru Gobind Singh said that all Sikhs must carry a sword, but to defend the weak, never to attack. It stands for justice and reminds Sikhs to stand up for people who cannot stand up for themselves.

