

Sikhism

Learning Objectives

- **Sikh beliefs**
- **Basic of Sikhism**
- **The festival of Baisakhi**

Introduction



Sikhism

A Sikh is any person whose faith consists of belief in One God, the ten Sikh Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib.

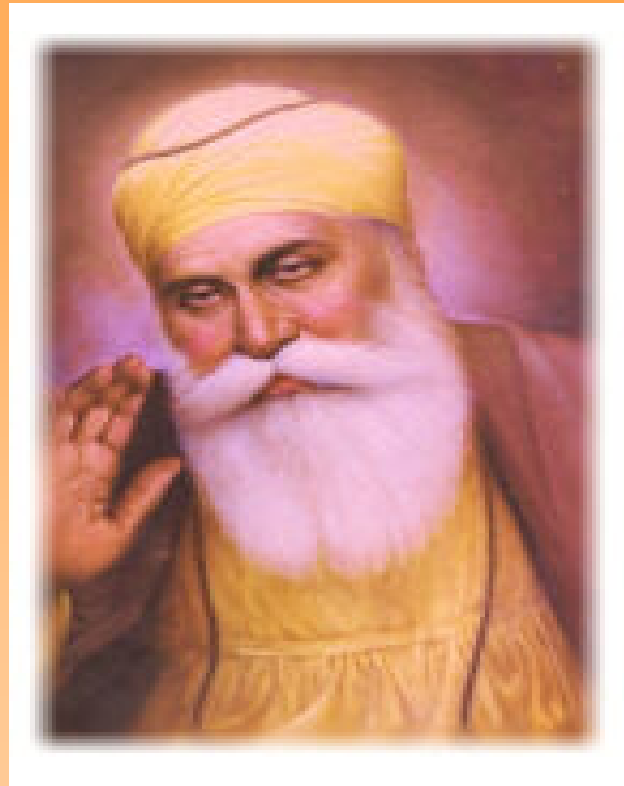
Basics of Sikhism

- It is the world's youngest religion
- Its founder was born in 1469.
- The Sikhs have ten Gurus.
- The Sikhs call God 'Waheguru'.
- Guru Granth Sahib is their holy book.
- The Sikhs worship only one God in his Abstract form.
- According to the Sikh beliefs, God is the eternal truth.
- Their common salutation is 'Sat Sri Akaal'.

Baisakhi is the most important religious festival for Sikhs. It is celebrated on the 13th of April and marks the Sikh New years day. In Punjab (now part of India and Pakistan), where Sikhism began. Baisakhi is also the time of the Harvest festival.

The founder

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism. He began teaching around the year 1500 CE and taught the importance of justice, equality and fellowship.



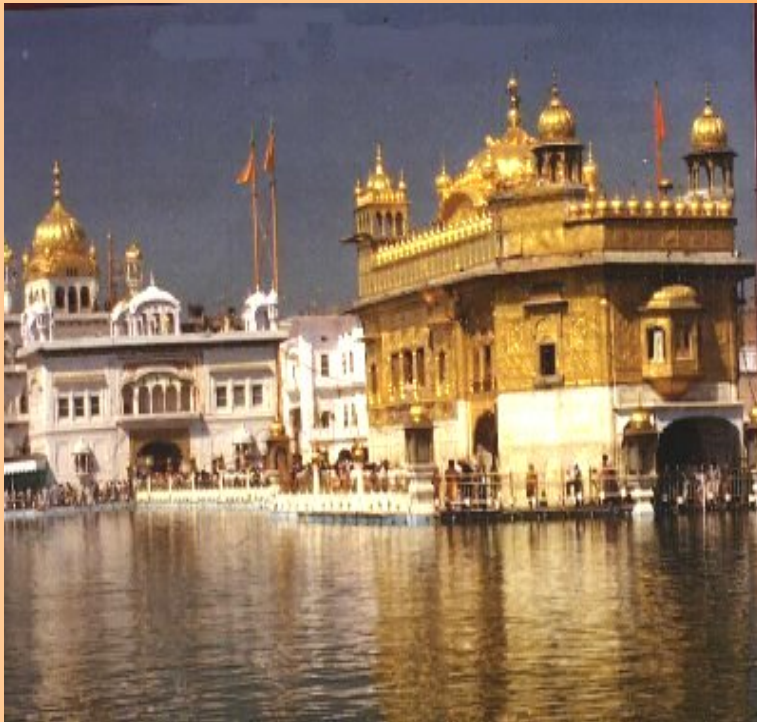
Baisakhi or Vaisakhi

The first Baisakhi took place in 1699 in the month of Vaisakh.

Since then, every year, on the 13th of April, many Sikhs go to their place of worship called Gurudwara.

There they join in prayers and special services which may last all day.

A Gurudwara



This is a very famous Gurudwara called The Golden Temple.

It is also a place of pilgrimage for Sikh people.

Nishan Sahib

In front of every Gurudwara there is a flagpole where a flag called Nishan Sahib flies at all times. The flag bears the Khanda, the Sikh symbol. The flagpole is dressed in orange robes.

What happens?

Each year at Baisakhi, the flagpole is lowered so that the robes can be removed. The flagpole is then washed with yoghurt which sikhs consider to be very pure. After that everyone helps to raise the flagpole again with new robes and a new flag flying from the top for another year.

Dancing at Baisakhi

This dance is performed by men on Baisakhi day. As the beat of the *dholak* (drum) changes, the sequences progress. The dance movements express ploughing, sowing, weeding, reaping and winnowing. The final sequence shows the farmer celebrating the harvest. Today women dance as well called **Gidha**.

The dancers



Bhangra consists of aspects of science. Among them are: Force, Speed Acceleration, Friction, and Momentum. Each is involved in every move, step, and dance.

Can you notice any Maths in the sequences?