

Acquiring Religious Education Spring 1

Sikhs usually celebrate Vaisakhi on the 13th and 14th April. It is the most important festival day for Sikhs because, in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa. The Khalsa are ordained Sikhs who make promises to wear the Five Ks and follow the Sikh religion faithfully. To become part of the Khalsa, Sikhs drink a sugary liquid called amrit and have it sprinkled onto their eyes and hair. Some Sikhs choose to take amrit during Vaisakhi. Sikhs might also take part in a Nagar Kirtan during Vaisakhi, where the Sikh holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib, is driven through the streets accompanied by many members of the local Sikh community. Free food, called langar, is provided and dancing and martial arts demonstrations are enjoyed. Vaisakhi is also a New Year and harvest festival in the Punjab.

	Lesson title	Key knowledge	SMSC Opportunities
Lesson 1	Five beloved ones	- Describe and understand links between stories and other aspects of the communities they are investigating, responding thoughtfully to a range of sources of wisdom and to beliefs and teachings that arise from them in different communities. - Sense enjoyment and fascination when learning about themselves, others and the world around them	 
Lesson 2	Taking Amrit	Describe and make connections between different features of the religions and world views they study, discovering more about celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals, which mark important points in life, in order to reflect on their significance.	 

		Understand and appreciate the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their heritage and those of others.	
Lesson 3	The five Ks	- Understand the challenges of commitment to a community of faith or belief, suggesting why belonging to a community may be valuable, both in the diverse communities being studied and in their lives. - Explore and show respect for different faiths, religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups, national and global communities.	 
Lesson 4	Celebrating Vaisakhi	- Describe and make connections between different features of the religions and world views they study, discovering more about celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals, which mark important points in life, in order to reflect on their significance. - Participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities.	 
Lesson 5	Exploring Identity	- Recognise that similarities and differences between people arise from several factors. - Some of the factors that result in similarities and differences between people include family background, culture, ethnicity, race, religious belief, age, sex, gender and disability.	 

Week 1

Key terms: amrit, five beloved, five Ks, gurdwara, Guru Gobind Singh, identity, langar, symbol, Vaisakhi, Kara, Kesh, Kirpan, Kanga, Kachera

Lesson 1

Mastery Content

Lesson Objectives:

- Describe and understand links between stories and other aspects of the communities they are investigating, responding thoughtfully to a range of sources of wisdom and to beliefs and teachings that arise from them in different communities.

Key Skills:

- Sense enjoyment and fascination when learning about themselves, others and the world around them.

Optional coverage:

Lesson Guide

Show the animation [The Formation of the Khalsa](#) on YouTube then ask questions about the story, such as 'Why did Guru Gobind Singh ask for men to go into the tent? Why did the men follow his orders? How did belief in God and the Guru affect the men's actions?' Explore the thoughts and feelings of the crowd outside the tent and the Five Beloved Ones inside the tent.

Note: The five men who entered the tent during Vaisakhi in 1699 are known as the Panj Pyare or the Five Beloved Ones. Today, men from local Sikh communities are chosen to represent the Five Beloved Ones at special occasions, such as the amrit ceremony or the Nagar Kirtan parade during Vaisakhi.

Resources

Week 2

Key terms: amrit, five beloved, five Ks, gurdwara, Guru Gobind Singh, identity, langar, symbol, Vaisakhi, Kara, Kesh, Kirpan, Kanga, Kachera

Lesson 1

Mastery Content

Lesson Objectives:

- Describe and make connections between different features of the religions and world views they study, discovering more about celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals, which mark important points in life, in order to reflect on their significance.

Key Skills:

- Understand and appreciate the wide range of cultural influences that have shaped their heritage and those of others.

Optional coverage:

Lesson Guide

Show the BBC Teach clip [Taking Amrit](#). Let the children talk about the ceremony then ask 'Why is taking amrit so special to Sikhs?' and 'How might taking amrit affect the lives of ordained Sikhs?' Compare the amrit ceremony to adult Christian confirmation or Jewish bar or bat mitzvah ceremonies. Compare beliefs, promises, outward signs, symbols, special readings and community involvement. Discuss their findings then ask 'What special promises might people make during their lives? Why do people make special promises? Do you think special promises are easy or difficult to keep?'

Note: Not all Sikhs choose to join the Khalsa and make special promises. It is a choice that Sikhs make when they are old enough to decide.

Resources

Week 3

Key terms: amrit, five beloved, five Ks, gurdwara, Guru Gobind Singh, identity, langar, symbol, Vaisakhi, Kara, Kesh, Kirpan, Kanga, Kachera

Lesson 1

Mastery Content

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand the challenges of commitment to a community of faith or belief, suggesting why belonging to a community may be valuable, both in the diverse communities being studied and in their lives.

Key Skills:

- Explore and show respect for different faiths, religious, ethnic and socio-economic groups, national and global communities.

Optional coverage:

Lesson Guide

Show the children the Five Ks one at time. Let them handle and study each object, guess what it is and what it represents. Share ideas then watch the BBC Teach clip [The Five Ks of Sikhism](#). Let the children take notes then provide books and internet access for them to find out more. Ask them to design a poster of the Five Ks to display in the classroom with pictures and captions.

Note: The Five Ks: Kesh is uncut hair, which shows that Sikhs are willing to follow God's will. Kangha is a small wooden comb, symbolising cleanliness. Kara is a steel bracelet, which shows that God is eternal. Kachera are cotton undershorts, a symbol of faithfulness and Kirpan is a ceremonial sword, which shows that Sikhs are ready to defend the weak.

Resources

steel Bangle, hair, wooden comb, special underwear, ceremonial sword.

Week 4

Key terms: amrit, five beloved, five Ks, gurdwara, Guru Gobind Singh, identity, langar, symbol, Vaisakhi, Kara, Kesh, Kirpan, Kanga, Kachera

Lesson 1	Mastery Content	Lesson Objectives: Describe and make connections between different features of the religions and world views they study, discovering more about celebrations, worship, pilgrimages and the rituals, which mark important points in life, in order to reflect on their significance.	Lesson Guide	Watch the BBC Teach clip Vaisakhi and study images of Vaisakhi celebrations. Ask pupils what they can see and what happens at a Vaisakhi celebration. Focus on bhangra dancing and drumming – if there is time, participate in these events. Pupils may also focus on langar meal prepared by the community in the Gurdwara and given to visitors free of charge during the parade. Note: During Vaisakhi, Sikhs might visit the Gurdwara to pay their respects and listen to readings from the Guru Granth Sahib, help to prepare and serve food in the langar kitchen and take part in a Nagar Kirtan parade where the Guru Granth Sahib is driven slowly through the streets on a float. Many people follow the parade, some sing hymns, play rhythms on drums, dance or take part in gatka martial arts demonstrations. The Nishan Sahib, the flag showing the Sikh Khanda emblem is also taken down and the flag pole is washed in milk. The flag is replaced with a new one	Resources	
		Key Skills: Participate in and respond positively to artistic, musical, sporting and cultural opportunities. Optional coverage: Note: After this session, talk about Vaisakhi celebrations and compare them to another celebration that the children are familiar with, such as Easter, Eid al-Fitr, Navratri, Hanukkah or Esala Perahera. Compare food, activities, family time, ceremonies, holy texts, music and dancing.				

Week 5	Key terms: amrit, five beloved, five Ks, gurdwara, Guru Gobind Singh, identity, langar, symbol, Vaisakhi, Kara, Kesh, Kirpan, Kanga, Kachera
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Lesson 1	Mastery Content	Lesson Objectives: Recognise that similarities and differences between	Lesson Guide	talk about Vaisakhi celebrations and compare them to another celebration that the children are familiar with, such as Easter, Eid al-Fitr, Navratri, Hanukkah	Resources	
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people arise from several factors.

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Key Skills:

- Some of the factors that result in similarities and differences between people include family background, culture, ethnicity, race, religious belief, age, sex, gender and disability.

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Optional coverage:

or Esala Perahera. Compare food, activities, family time, ceremonies, holy texts, music and dancing.

The Five Ks give Sikhs a strong sense of identity. But what is identity?

1. What does the word identity mean?
2. How do we identify someone?
3. Where does your identity come from?
4. Do you own, wear or do anything that shows you identify with a group?
5. How might your identity change as you get older?
6. What makes your identity unique?

Your task

Choose five objects, ideas, activities or personality traits that represent your identity. Write them on a piece of paper, fold it up and put it into a 'Secret identity' box. Let your teacher pick out and read the lists at random. Can your class guess the identity of the writer? Is everyone's identity the same?

				Evaluation questions for topic: 7. What might Sikhs learn from the story of the formation of the Khalsa? 8. Why is taking amrit important to many Sikhs? 9. Why do Sikhs wear the Five Ks? 10. How is Vaisakhi celebrated? 11. How might Vaisakhi celebrations make Sikhs feel?	
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