

An enquiry-approach to visiting places of worship



My enquiry into religion by visiting the Gurdwara

Name

Class

Date of visit

Year Group 4



How do you know what Sikhs believe about their holy book by what you encounter in this place of worship?

What do I know about Sikhs beliefs about their holy book already?

I know that Sikhs believe there is one God. Their holy book has lots of writings saying how great God is. These writings are read out in services. Sikhs think this book is like a teacher - this is why it called a Guru.



6 encounters

In each box put a picture of one encounter e.g. a piece of furniture, a symbol, a person, a piece of music and in the 'Clues' box write what this encounter might tell you about the beliefs behind it.

1



Khanda - You can see this symbol in many places inside and outside the Gurdwara. It is made up of swords and a circle - the circle reminds Sikhs that God has no beginning or end. I don't know how it tells me anything about the holy book though.



2



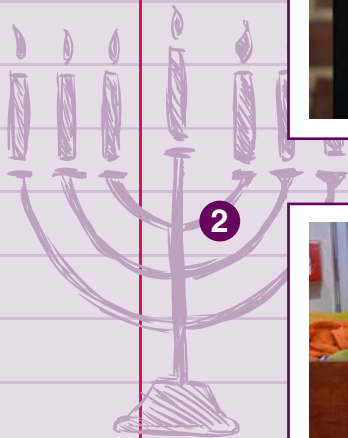
Spare headscarves - When you go to a Sikh gurdwara you have to remove your shoes and cover your head. If you do not have a head scarf they will lend you one so that you can go in and be with other people. Covering your head is showing respect for God but I don't know what this tells me about the holy book.



3



Special bedroom - The holy book is never left uncovered. At night it is put away in a special bedroom and covered with beautiful clean cloths. Sikhs treat the holy book like a special guest as they see it as an important teacher who helps them learn about God.



4



The Guru Granth Sahib – this is the Sikh holy book – it is read out loud in services and is treated with great respect. It is covered with a cloth when not being read and sits on a stand under a special shelter. Sikhs put offerings in front of it. This book is seen as a teacher so is very important.



5



Offerings – When Sikhs come to pray they bring offerings usually of food, flowers or money. This is to show God respect and remember what he has given them.



6



The Langar – the langar is a free meal shared with everyone at the Gurdwara. Sikhs believe it is important to look after people and to share. It is a vegetarian meal. I think this is a really good way of showing God you care for others. Maybe the holy book tells Sikhs to do this?



My encounters so far lead me to deduce thatSikhs..... believe
 their holy book is almost a living thing. It is treated as much more than
 just a book. I found this surprising and it made me think about the way
 we treat books in class.

What questions do I need to ask to find out more about what
Sikhs believe?

(Can I talk with a member of this religion to hear their answers?)

My questions

Answers (more clues)

1

1. Why do some Sikhs not cut their hair?

2

2. What happens to the offerings that are brought?

3

3. What would happen if the Holy book was not put away?

4

4. Why are there swords on the main Sikh symbol?

5

5. Why do most Sikhs not eat meat?

6

6. Why is the meal given to people who are not Sikhs as well?

My encounters so far lead me to deduce that Sikhs **believe**

believe that their holy book tells them how great God is.

This page shows what I have found out from my encounters in this place of worship about the beliefs of the people who visit this place of worship.

Sikhs believe that their holy book tells them how great God is. This is why it is read in every ceremony. They believe the book is so important that they put it to bed at the end of the day and carefully take it out again the next morning. God also wants Sikhs to show caring for others around them, this is why a free meal is given to all who visit. I like the idea of a free meal and I think it would make people feel welcome if they visited.



This visit has been interesting to me because

I have seen how Sikhs think their holy book is so important. It is covered up when not being read and shown respect when it is being read. It is like having a special person come to visit you, you have to be dressed in the right way and behave well. I enjoyed going to the kitchen and trying the meal, it was different to anything else I have ever had.