Thursday 4th February 2021

LO: can I explain what makes the Gurdwara a speical place for Sikhs?

Starter:

How do people celebrate having a baby?

Sikhs worship both in public, at the Gurdwara, and in private, at home. The word Gurdwara means door or gateway to the Guru.

At home, Sikhs have pictures of the Gurus that they would pray to and burn incense sticks while doing so.

There are many things related to a Gurdwara that end with the word 'sahib' – e.g. Nishan Sahib, Manji Sahib. The word 'sahib' is an Arabic word which means 'master'. It is used to signify respect.

Sri Harmandir Sahib, located in India, is also known as The Golden Temple. This is the most famous and important place of worship in the Sikh religion, its doors open from all sides to people of all faiths.

Hemkund Sahib, Hemkund, also in India, is a gurdwara 15,000 feet above sea level in the Himalayan range. People come here from all over the world.

Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha is thought to be the biggest in London.

Nishan Sahib

Gurdwaras fly this flag outside to show that it is a special place of worship. The flag contains the Sikh symbol called the **'Khanda'.**

The Four Doors

There are four doors into the Gurdwara to show that people from the north, east, south and west are welcome.

Entrance: When you enter a Gurdwara you are expected to do two things before you go to the main prayer hall to worship.

Shoe Rack

Shoes are removed and placed on a shoe rack.

Head Covering

Hair must be covered as a sign of respect.

Darbar Sahib (Main Hall)
This is where people sit and worship. The hall is split into two with men and women sitting a on separate sides, all facing the Guru Granth Sahib (the holy book). Children are not expected to observe this rule and can sit with either of their parents. Everyone sits cross-legged on the floor. They must not have their feet facing the holy book, as that is seen as disrespectful. You must also not sit with your back to the holy book.

Takht: The place where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept during the day is called the Takht (which means throne). It consists of three parts:

Chanani

This is the canopy which is made of highly decorate cloth. It covers the holy book.

Palki Sahib

This is the four postered structure that houses the **Manji Sahib.** It is usually made of wood.

Manji Sahib

The word manji means bed in Punjabi. The Manji Sahib is a raised platform covered with cloth, on which the holy book is placed during the day.

Golak

This is the donations box placed in front of the Takht but is not part of it. Worshippers donate what they can and this is used to pay for the 'langar'.

Guru Granth Sahib

This is the Sikh holy book. It is treated like a person. During the day it is placed on the Manji Sahib. In the evening, any Sikhs present at the Gurdwara form a procession to carry the holy book to a special 'bedroom' where it is kept on, sometimes, a real bed or a raised platform.

Chaur

A fan which is waved over the Guru Granth Sahib as a sign of respect. It is made from yak's hair.

Rumala

A special cloth that is placed on the Guru Granth Sahib when it is not being read. These are usually made of silk and embroidered. They are sometimes given as a gift to the Gurdwara.

Langar

This is a free kitchen where food is served without charge during the whole day and evening until the temple is closed for the night. The food is paid for by donations to the Gurdwara. Usually it is Sikhs who make use of this service but it is for everyone.

Everyone is expected to eat together. People usually sit on a carpeted floor or stand at a table, although there are chairs for those who can't manage this because, for example, they are elderly. Eating together is another way of demonstrating that all people are considered equal.

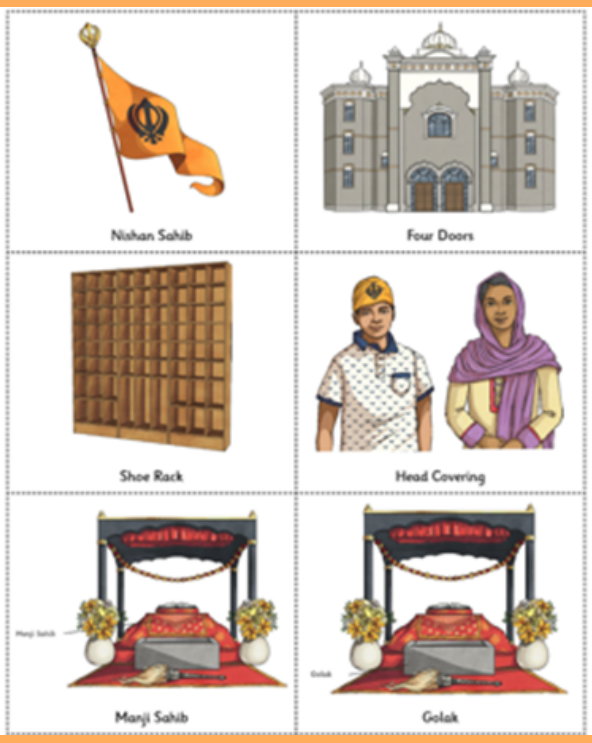
Watch the following clip:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/the-gurdwara/z4qc8xs

What special features did you see?

Task:

Complete the matching activity about the Gurdwara:



This is a raised platform.	It has the Sikh symbol called the 'Khanda' on it.
This is a free communal kitchen.	It contains the Manji Sahib.
Wearing shoes in the prayer hall is considered disrespectful.	The canopy is made of decorated cloth.
This is a fan waved over the holy book.	Hair must be covered before entering the Darbar Sahib (prayer hall).
You cannot have your feet facing the holy book or turn your back to it while in this room.	It has four posters.
This is where the Guru Granth Sahib is placed during the day.	There are four to represent north, east, south and west.
These show that all people are welcome.	It is where worshippers donate money to the temple.
Shoes are placed here.	This is a flag that shows the Gurdwara is a place of worship.
It is made from yak's hair.	Everyone is expected to sit together and eat to show they are all equal.
It covers the Guru Granth Sahib from above.	This is placed at the front of the Manji Sahib.
It is normal to cover one's head with a scarf, turban, patka or bandana.	This hall contains the Takht where the Guru Granth Sahib is placed during the day.

Plenary:

Watch the following clip:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zd4wmp3

What did Guru Nanak say about sharing with others?

Why is it important?

How do Sikhs share with others at the Gurdwara?