

## How and why do Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi?

Aim: to understand the importance of Vaisakhi for Sikhs

Task One: copy date, title and aim

Task Two: Look at the picture below and write 3 questions you would like to know about it, and then make a bulleted list of whatever you know about it.



Task Three: Turn your book to landscape. Make a graph labelling the y axis as 'Emotion' and the x axis as 'Events'.

Write these events along the x axis:

- 1) Sikhs gather to meet the Guru at Vaisakhi
- 2) Guru Gobind Rai greets the crowd
- 3) Guru Gobind Rai asks for a volunteer who is prepared to die for their belief
- 4) The volunteer is taken into a tent but the Guru emerges
- 5) The Guru asks for another volunteer
- 6) The Guru again comes out while the volunteer does not
- 7) The scene is repeated three more times till there are 5 volunteers in the tent
- 8) The volunteers emerge dressed in a new uniform, wearing the 5 Ks
- 9) The Guru bows before them, recognising them as his Guru, and asks them to give him pahul (initiation rites, often called amrit)

- 10) The Guru's name is changed to Guru Gobind Singh
- 11) 80,000 people follow the Guru's example in joining the Khalsa

Along the y axis make marks for 'Gutted' at the bottom, then 'Sad', 'Confused', 'Frightened', 'Happy', 'Overjoyed', 'Angry'

Display how you think the sangat (congregation = gathering of people) felt on your graph.

Task Four: Read the text below and answer the questions which follow:

Spiritual leadership and guidance of the community had always been in the Bani - the Holy Word sent and inspired by God. Leadership and guidance of worldly aspects of the Sikhs' life had been passed through the Ten Gurus.

The Sikh community had been taught that there was no need for priests and that everyone had their own connection with God. After two hundred years they were now being given the chance to lead and guide themselves as a group - the Guru Khalsa Panth. Even Guru Gobind Rai had wanted to join this group and become Guru Gobind Singh. To express that they were ruling themselves, the men took the surname 'Singh' often used for princes and the women took the surname 'Kaur' meaning princess.

- 1) Who was and is the spiritual leader of the Sikhs?
- 2) What was the role of the Ten Gurus?
- 3) Why do Sikhs not believe in priests?
- 4) What is the role of the Guru Khalsa Panth?
- 5) Why do Sikhs adopt the surnames of 'Singh' and 'Kaur'?

Task Five: Was the creation of the Khalsa a short-term reaction to the persecution of the Mughals or the long-term working out of a plan by the Gurus (and God)? Or was it both? Give reasons for your opinion.

*Some people think...because...*

*Other people think...because...*

*I think...because...*