

## Lesson Three

LI: To interpret the meaning of  
the five Ks for Sikhs around the  
world

# Activity

Read through the following slides and look the weblinks.

Draw and describe the importance of each of the five Ks for Sikhs.

- <https://www.bbc.com/teach/class-clips-video/the-five-ks-in-sikhism/znbhf4j>
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/zbfgkqt>
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/zcn34wx>
- <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/clips/z3sb9j6>



*A Sense of Belonging*



**Sikhism and the five Ks**

**Guru Gobind Singh**



# The Story of Guru Gobind Singh and the Five Ks

There are ten human Gurus and Guru Gobind Singh is the last one. A long time ago terrible things were happening to Sikhs in India and so Guru Gobind Singh decided to do something about it.

One day in a place called Anandpur the Guru gathered the Sikhs to celebrate their harvest festival. At the festival he called for a man who was willing to die for his faith.

Soon one man stepped forward and went into a tent with the Guru. Then the Guru reappeared with blood on his sword. He then asked for another volunteer and another man went into the tent with the Guru. Once again the Guru came out of the tent with his sword covered in blood. So two men went in and did not come out again. The Guru then asked for a third volunteer and the same thing happened. He asked for a fourth volunteer and again reappeared with blood on his sword. He then asked for a fifth volunteer and again the Guru reappeared with blood on his sword.

In all five men went in. As far as the crowd could tell, the Guru had killed five men in the tent. Eventually, the Guru opened the tent and revealed the five men alive.

This was the beginning of Khalsa  
- a new family of Sikhs.

Guru Gobind Singh gave all Sikhs the name  
Singh and Kaur

Singh means lion  
Kaur means princess

This means that everybody is equal.

Guru Gobind Singh asked all Sikhs to wear  
five symbols expressing their allegiance to  
the new Sikh community - Khalsa

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# The five K's

- **Kachera** - short trousers or breeches - signify readiness to ride into battle
- **Kesh** - uncut hair. Devout Sikhs do not cut their hair or beard at any time
- **Kara** - steel bangle. A complete circle symbolizing one God and one truth without beginning or end. The steel symbolizes strength.
- **Kirpan** - a small sword or dagger reminder the Sikh of the need to fight against oppression in any form.
- **Kanga** - a comb to keep the hair in place.



# Can you name these items?



The turban is **not** one of the five K's, but is worn to keep the hair tidy, and to look like Guru Gobind Singh.



Here are some other objects that relate to the Sikh religion.

Sikh symbol  
The khanda



The Sikh flag always flies outside the gurdwara. The symbol consists of two swords, symbolising a Sikh's duty to teach truth and defend rights, a circle symbolizing that God is one, and a khanda, the double-edged sword.



Sikh holy book – Guru Granth Sahib



Gurdwara



The Golden Temple in the holy city of Amritsar .  
The city is the spirital centre of Sikhism.