

# Lessons 4 and 5

LI: To understand how Sikh's worship and the importance of the Gurdwara.

Over the next two lessons we would like you to investigate the significance of the Gurdwara for Sikhs and then create your own.

# Your Special Place

A special place for me is...

I show respect when I am there by...

# Watch this clip

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

# A Gurdwara - Place of worship



A Gurdwara is the place where Sikhs go for worship together.

The word Gurdwara means the door that leads to the Guru.



It is the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib that gives the Gurdwara its name, any building containing the book is a Gurdwara.



# How is it used?

- Meetings
- Worshipping God.
- Centre for learning for children and adults. To learn the Punjabi language.
- Celebration of important occasions - Weddings and births.
- Relaxation.

# Flying the flag

Gurdwaras fly the Sikh flag outside.

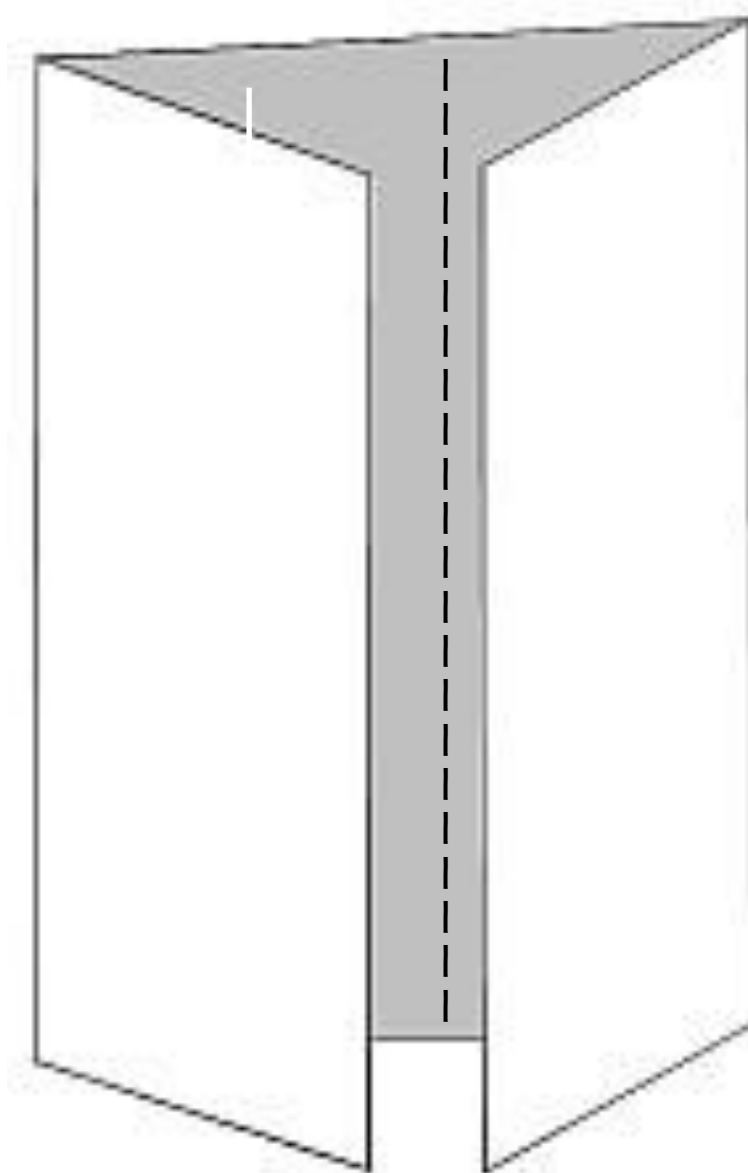
The flag is orange/yellow and has the Sikh logo in the middle.



Use an A4 or A3 sheet in landscape and fold in each of the two sides.

You can copy the front as the next slide shows and then draw the inside of the Gurdwara.

Use slide 13 to help you.  
Can you label the different parts?





# The Gurdwara

(The d\_\_\_\_\_ that leads to the g\_\_\_\_\_)

You are welcome for:  
Meetings  
Worshipping God  
Learning for children  
and adults  
Births and weddings  
Relaxing



Before going into a Gurdwara

Remove your shoes and wash your feet if they are dirty.

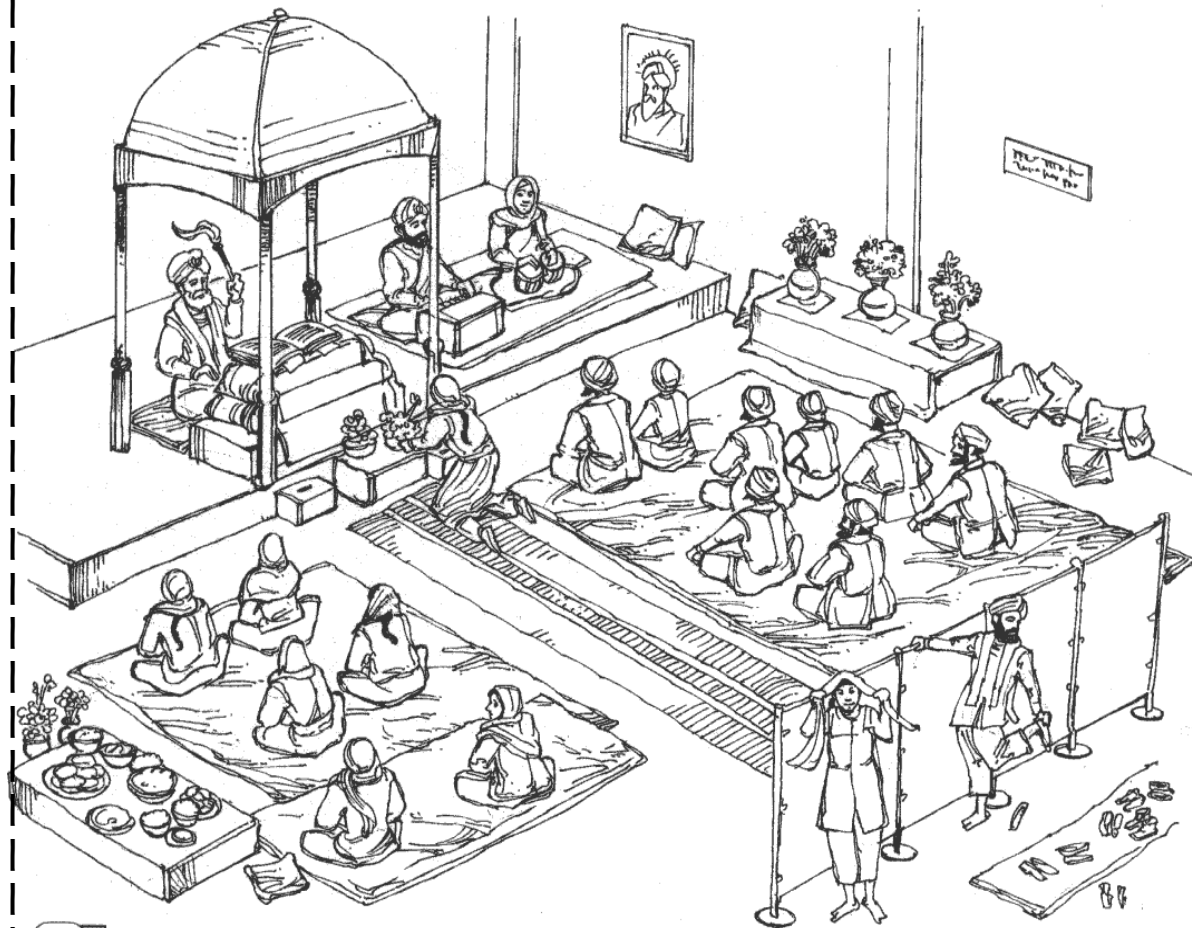
Cover your head.

A person should not go in drunk, or carrying alcohol or tobacco.

When entering a Gurdwara, the main thing that stands out is the raised platform, on which the Guru Granth Sahib is placed to be read from during the prayer service.

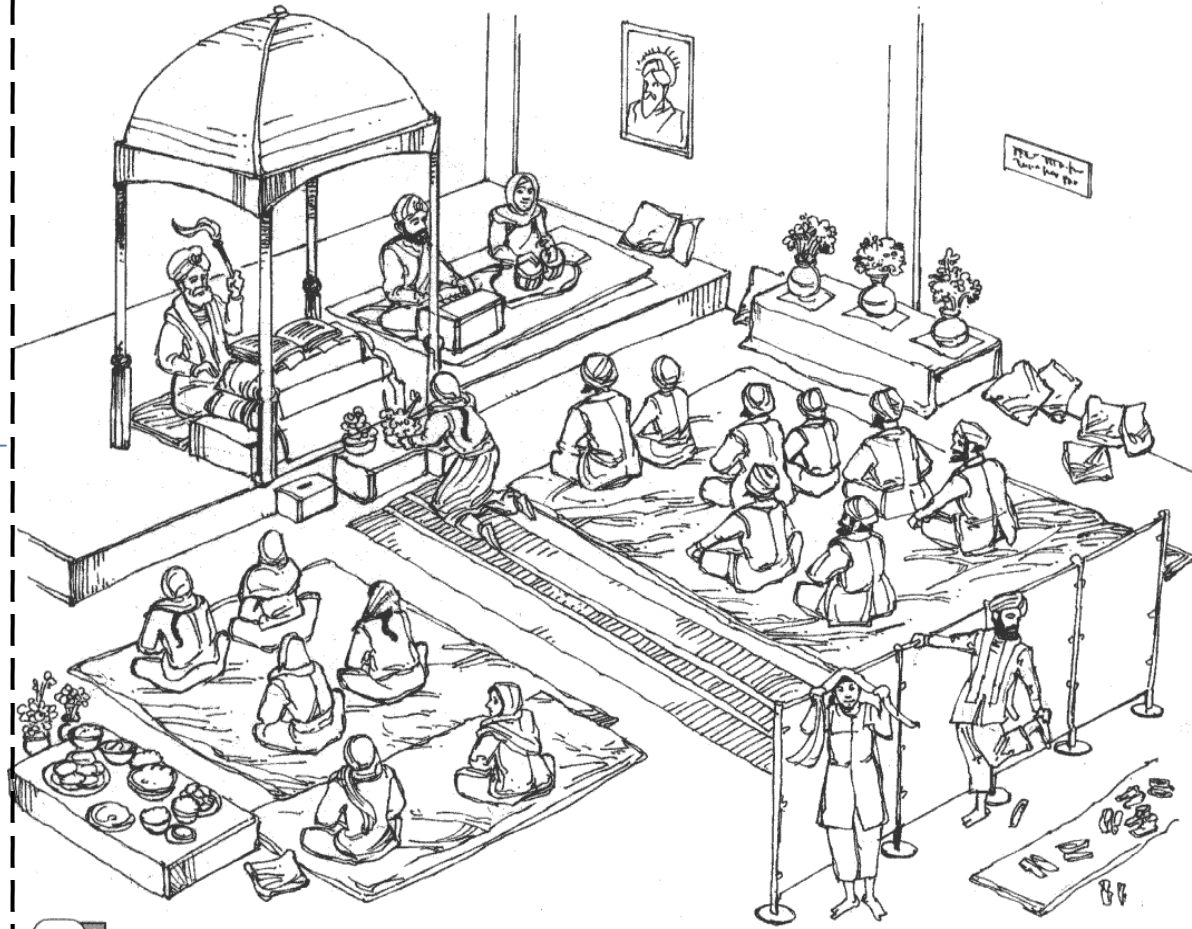
This platform called a 'palki', and it **SYMBOLISES** respect.







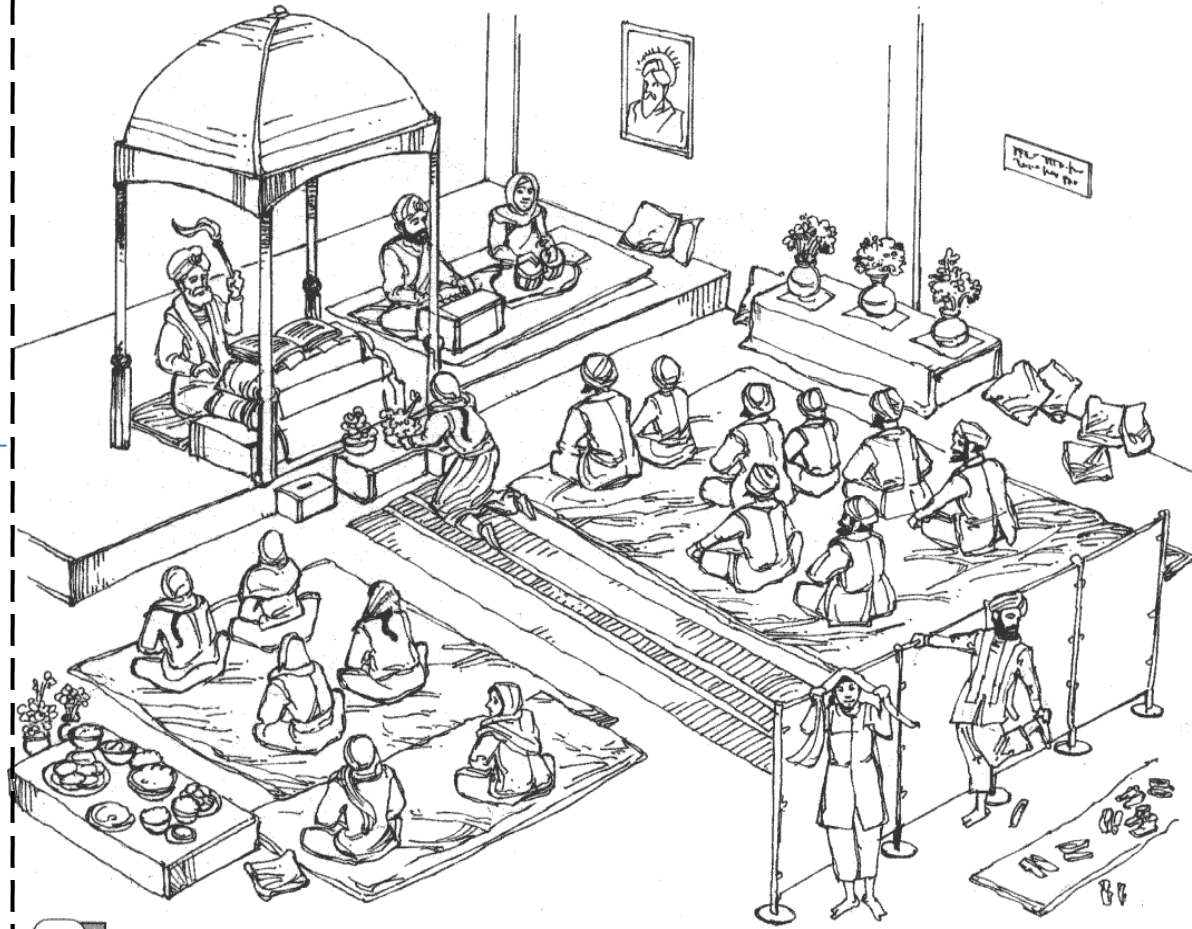
Firstly, Sikhs bow to the Guru Granth Sahib, touching the floor with their forehead. This **SYMBOLISES** respect and submission to the truths contained in the book.



# Seating in a Gurdwara

Everyone sits on the floor in a Gurdwara. This **SYMBOLISES** humility before the Guru Granth Sahib, and because it gives everyone a place of equal status to sit. Most people sit cross-legged.







# The Langar



This is used to run the Gurdwara and the free food kitchen (langar). The offering is NOT charity, but a SHARING of God's gifts. If a person has no money or food to offer, they may offer flowers, or just some words of sincere thanks

# The free food kitchen, or Langar



After every service Sikhs come to the Langar where a free vegetarian meal has been prepared for everybody. Sharing food is important as the Gurus taught that all Sikhs should share their possessions. All the work involved in preparing the food, serving it and clearing up afterwards is called 'seva' which means voluntary, selfless service.

Although Sikhs are not required to be vegetarian, only vegetarian food is served in the gurdwaras. This ensures that any visitor to the Gurdwara can eat in the Langar.



# What does it show about Sikh beliefs?

The way the Gurdwara is used and how it is set up shows something about Sikh beliefs.

It shows that they believe everyone is equal, it shows this by...

It shows the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib, it shows this by...