



RE

Places of Worship

Visiting a Gurdwara



Aim

- To explore what it is like to visit a gurdwara.

Success Criteria

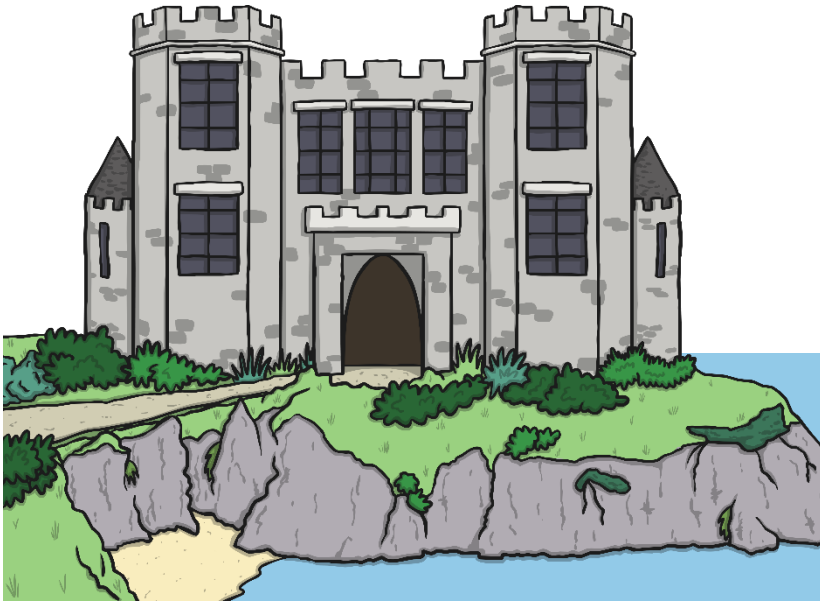
- I can describe what a visitor to a gurdwara might see.
- I can explain aspects of a gurdwara by writing a thank you letter.

Visiting a Special Place



Think of special places you have visited.

It's hard to define a special place as there are many different types. Religious buildings, castles, palaces, forests, beaches and homes could all be described as special places.



Think particularly about a building you have entered which has some special importance.

How would you behave when you are in such a place?
Jot down some ideas on your whiteboard.

Places of Worship



Here are some ideas you may have suggested:



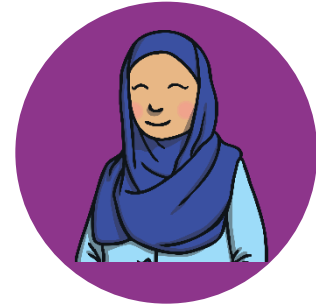
Walk rather than run.



Be aware of precious things around you.



Be quiet.



You might take off your hat or cover your head.



You might take off your shoes.



Be respectful towards the building and the people inside.



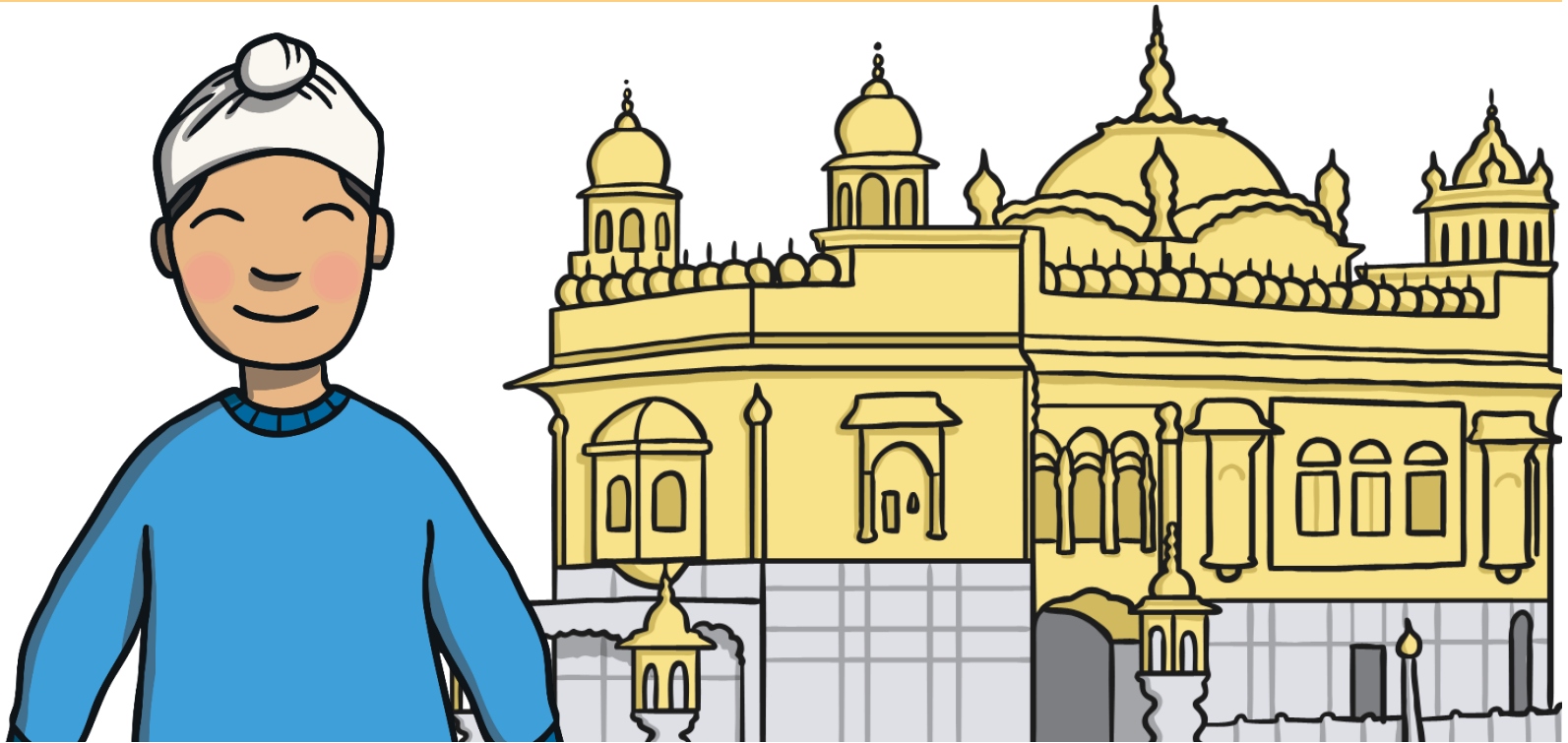
Only take photos if you are allowed to.

Visiting a Gurdwara



A gurdwara is a place of worship for Sikhs.

Hardeep is a Sikh. He will take you on a tour of his gurdwara.



Visiting a Gurdwara

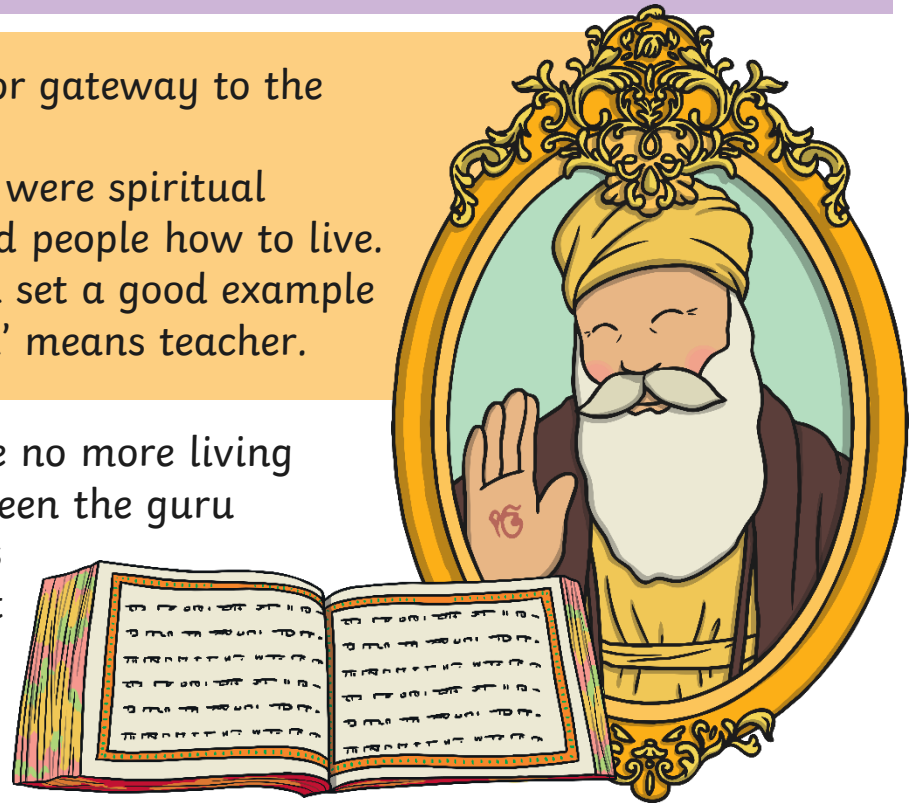


A gurdwara has four doors on the different sides. This is to show that people from all corners of the world are welcome in the gurdwara.

The word 'gurdwara' means door or gateway to the guru.

There were ten living gurus. These were spiritual messengers or masters who showed people how to live. They taught people about God and set a good example for them to follow. The word 'guru' means teacher.

After the ten living gurus, there were no more living gurus. The Guru Granth Sahib has been the guru ever since. The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy book of Sikhism. Sikhs treat the book as if it is a living guru.



Visiting a Gurdwara



Any place that has a Guru Granth Sahib can be called a gurdwara because it is a gateway to reaching the Guru.



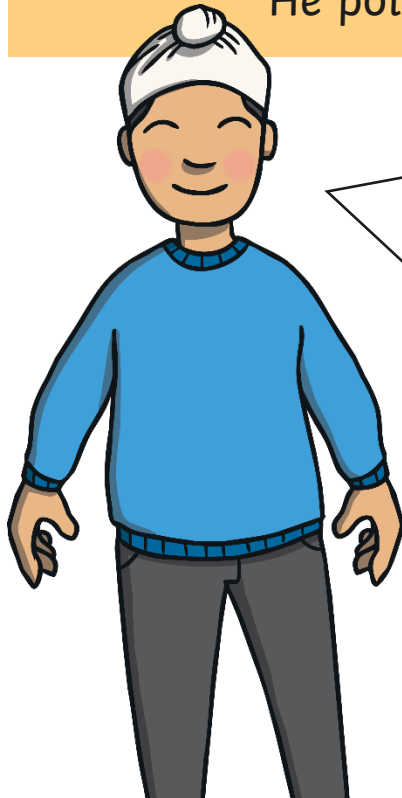
Photo courtesy of cchana (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Visiting a Gurdwara



Today, Hardeep will take you inside a public gurdwara.

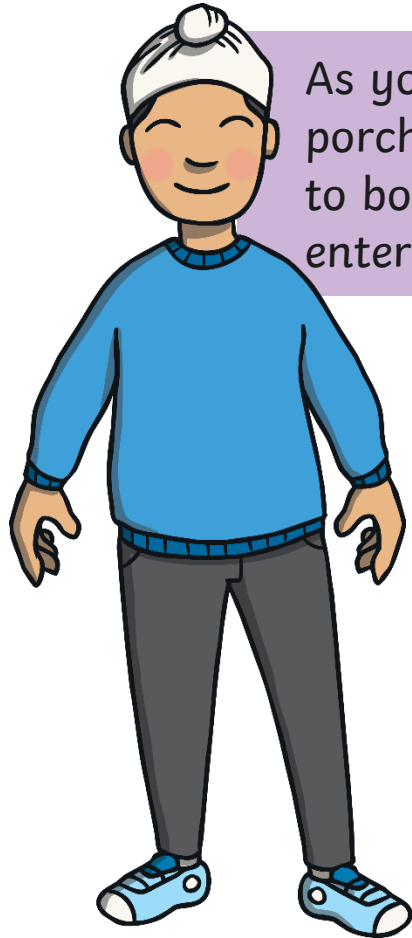
He points out the flag flying outside the gurdwara.



The flag there is called the Nishan Sahib. It has an important Sikh symbol on it called the 'khanda.'



Visiting a Gurdwara



As you walk into the entrance of the gurdwara, there is a porch area. On the shelves, you can see scarves for visitors to borrow. Hardeep asks you to cover your head before entering the gurdwara.

You might have brought your own scarf with you, but if not, you can borrow one. Everyone who enters a gurdwara covers their head as a mark of respect.



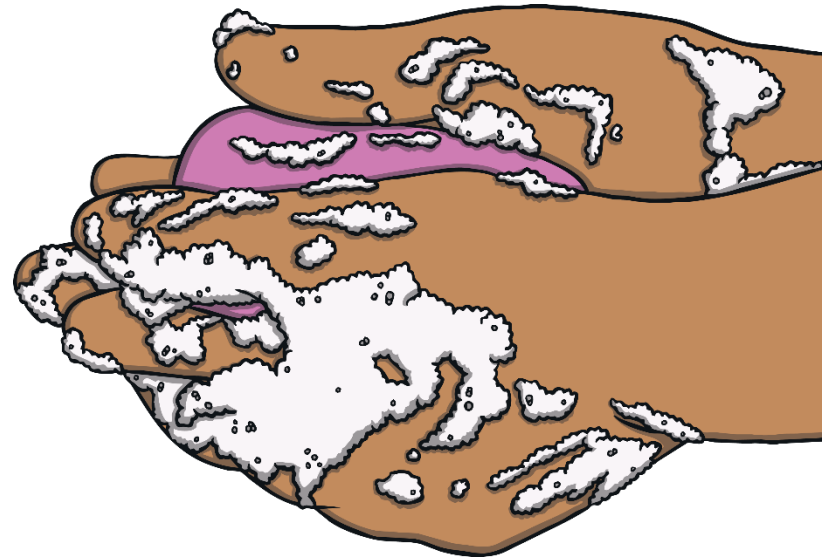
Visiting a Gurdwara



Hardeep asks you to take off your shoes and place them on a shoe rack.

After you have done this, he takes you to some sinks where you are asked to wash your hands.


This is because you will be going near the Guru Granth Sahib and it contains very special teachings for Sikhs. Everything near this holy book should be clean. It shows respect.



Visiting a Gurdwara



Hardeep takes you to the main hall, the Darbar Sahib. He explains that when you go in there, you will see the Guru Granth Sahib on a special platform with a canopy over the top.



Please don't point your feet in the direction of the Guru Granth Sahib when you are sitting on the floor.

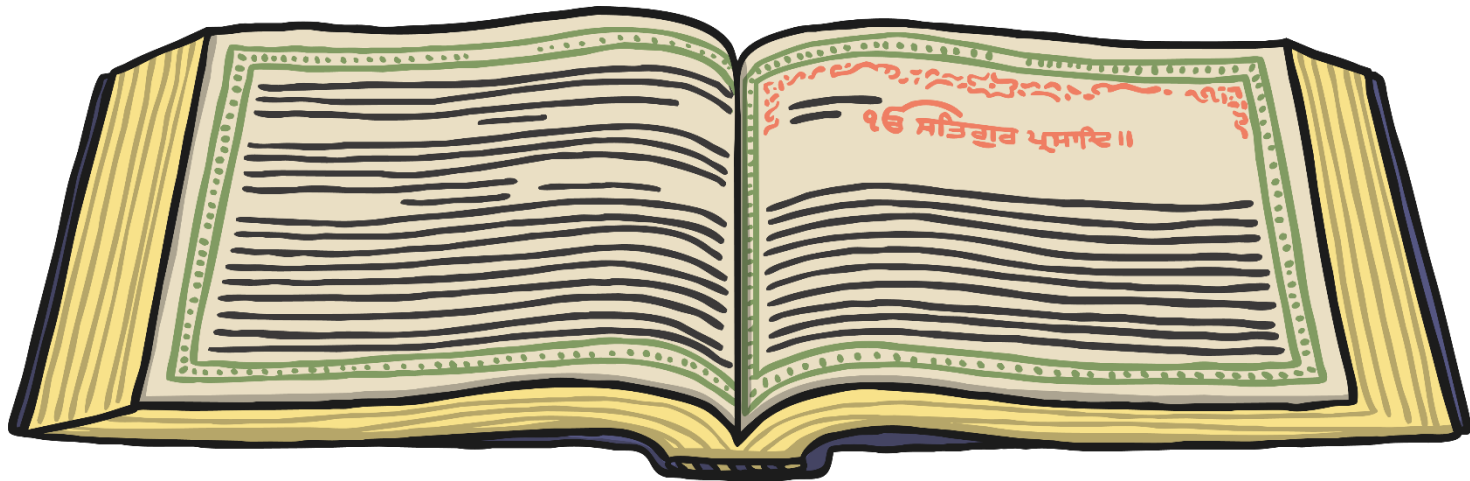
He tells you that someone will be reading from the Guru Granth Sahib. He will go up in front of the Guru Granth Sahib and bow to it to show respect. You can also do this if you would like to. He asks you not to talk while you are in the Darbar Sahib. You sit on the floor.

Visiting a Gurdwara



Hardeep explains that the Guru Granth Sahib is treated like a living guru. It is treated with great respect.

He explains that it is forbidden to worship the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhs should only worship God but the words in the book are so important that the book is treated in a special way.



Visiting a Gurdwara



Next, Hardeep takes you to the langar. The langar is a large kitchen and eating area where free vegetarian meals are provided.

Sikhs volunteer to help with the work of the langar by collecting or preparing the food, serving the meals or washing up.



Everyone sits on the floor to show that everyone is equal.

You sit on the floor and enjoy a tasty meal with Hardeep.

Thank You Letter



Imagine that you really have visited this gurdwara with Hardeep. Write a thank you letter to him to say thank you for taking you around the gurdwara.



Thank You Letter

To explore what it is like to visit a gurdwara.

Can you fill in the gaps in this thank you letter to Hardeep?

School address: _____

Date: _____

Dear Hardeep,

I am writing to you because...

I liked... _____

I learnt... _____

The parts of the gurdwara I saw were... _____

Thank you again for a wonderful visit. My favourite part of my visit was when _____

Best wishes,



RE 1 Year 2 | Pieces of Worship | Visiting a Gurdwara | Lesson 3



Thank You Letter

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Dear Hardeep,

I am writing to thank you so much for _____

I thought it was a _____ visit and I am so grateful to you for

From the outside, I thought the gurdwara looked _____ and I loved seeing the flag called the _____. Thank you for showing me what I needed to do when I first went into the gurdwara, for example _____

I enjoyed:

1) _____

2) _____

Thank you again for a wonderful visit. My favourite part of my visit was when _____

Best wishes,



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Thank you for showing me your holy book, _____

Thank you again for a wonderful visit. My favourite part of my visit was when _____

Best wishes,



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What Is It?



This is something you would see in a gurdwara.
Remember a gurdwara can be any place where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept.

?

Do you know what it is and how it is used?

Discuss your ideas for
what it might be with
your talk partner.



What Is It?



It is called a Chaur or Chaur Sahib. The hair comes from the tail of a yak. In the past, it was traditional to wave a Chaur near to kings and Gurus to keep them cool in the heat or to keep the flies away from them. It showed respect for the important person.

?

There is no living guru nowadays. Where do you think the Chaur might be waved to show respect inside a gurdwara?

It is waved
over the Guru
Granth
Sahib.



Aim



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twinkl