

Our story today is about how
Sikhs today celebrate the founder
of their religion...



CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK WITH ME!

Happy Guru Nanak Gurpurab!
My name is Mandeep.
I'm here to tell you about
Guru Nanak's birthday so
you can celebrate it with me.

Gurpurab
is the
Punjabi word
for a Guru's
birthday.

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We celebrate Guru Nanak Gurpurab when there is a full moon in late October or November. It is a time for families and the community to come together.

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SIKHISM

Guru Nanak Gurburab is a celebration that is part of a religion called Sikhism. Sikhism began in the Punjab. Today, the Punjab is in India and Pakistan.



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We follow the teachings of Gurus. They are written in our holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib. Copies are kept in a special place of worship called a Gurdwara.



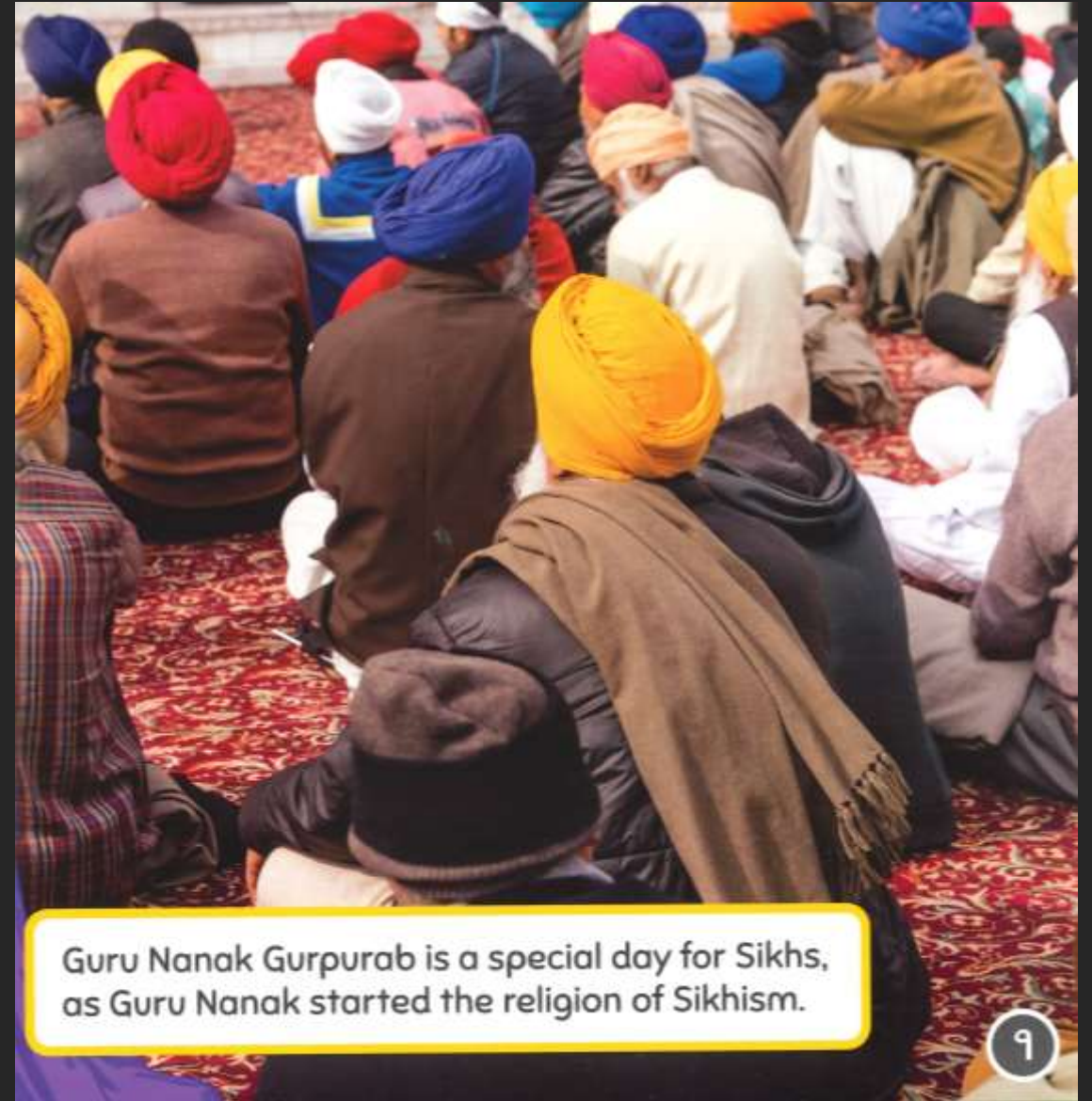
This Gurdwara in Amritsar is known as the Golden Temple.

GURU NANAK

There have been ten Gurus in the past, and Guru Nanak was the first. He believed that there is only one God and that everybody is the same no matter who they are or where they come from.

'Guru'
means
teacher.

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Guru Nanak Gurpurab is a special day for Sikhs, as Guru Nanak started the religion of Sikhism.

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THE STORY OF GURU NANAK

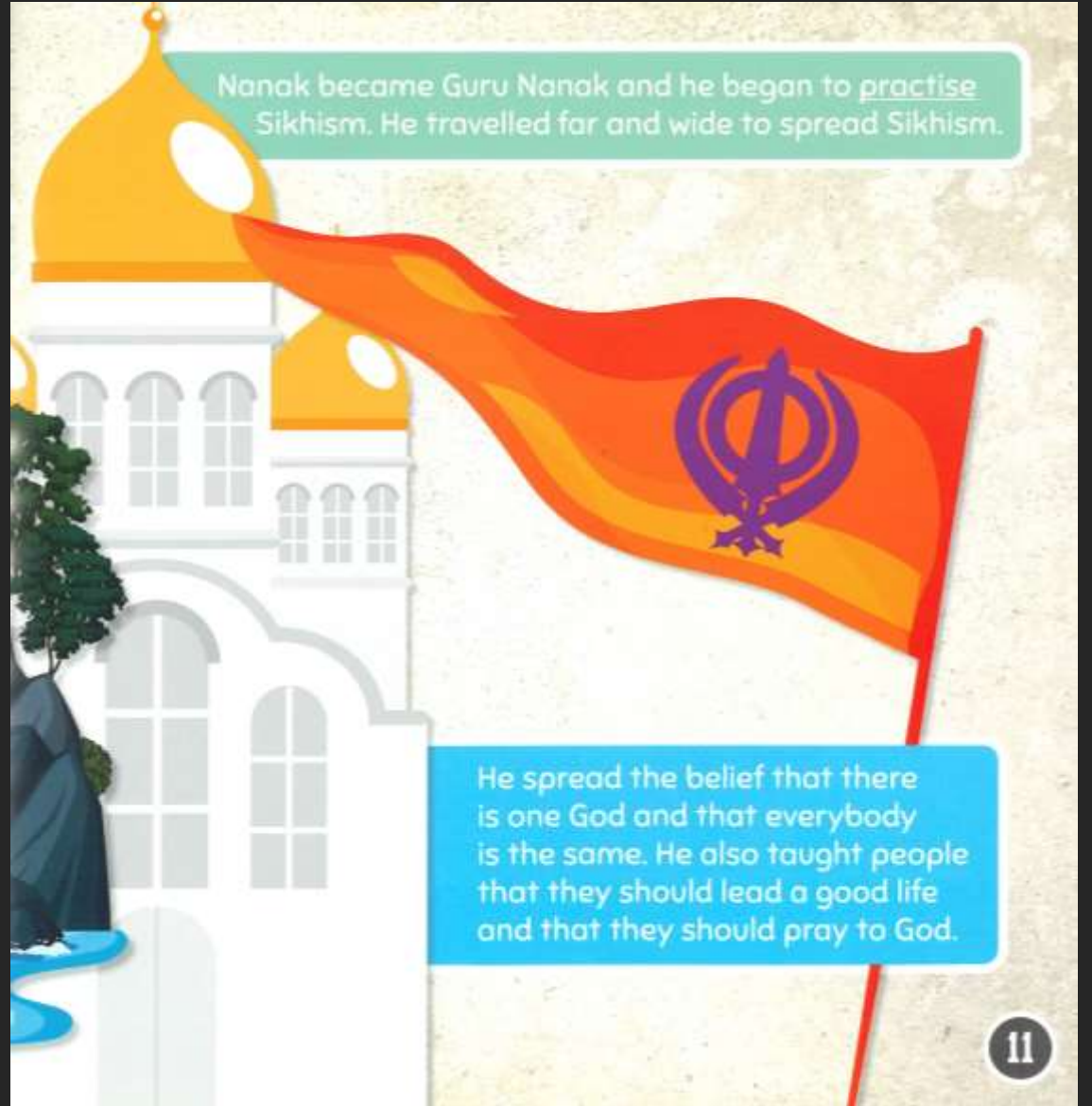
Guru Nanak was born to a Hindu family in the year 1469. As he grew up, he learnt a lot about the religions Hinduism and Islam. He was very clever and was good at poetry and philosophy.

One day, Nanak went to a river to bathe. He did not come back for three days. During his time away, Nanak was speaking with God.



Nanak became Guru Nanak and he began to practise Sikhism. He travelled far and wide to spread Sikhism.

He spread the belief that there is one God and that everybody is the same. He also taught people that they should lead a good life and that they should pray to God.



NAGAR KIRTAN

The day before Guru Nanak Gurburab is Nagar Kirtan. This is a procession that happens in the streets early in the morning. There are lots of floats in the procession. The Guru Granth Sahib is carried on a float.



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The procession is led by five Sikh men called the Panj Piare. Holy songs called shabad are sung and we all join in.

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There is so much to see during the procession. Sikh soldiers and specially trained people use swords or sticks and pretend to fight. It is a brilliant show.

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Everybody comes to the procession. Old or young, rich or poor, everybody is welcome. We feel at peace with each other as we sing. Soon, we reach the Gurdwara and the Guru Granth Sahib is taken inside.



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GURU NANAK GURPURAB



The next day is Guru Nanak's birthday. The day starts early in the morning with shabad and then meditation.

After this it is time for langar. This is a special lunch for the whole community. Food is cooked by volunteers. Everybody can come to the Gurdwara and eat a free lunch.



FESTIVE FOOD



We always eat roti during langar. Roti is a round flatbread that we eat with foods such as curry. Volunteers make and cook the roti for everyone.

We are also given a sweet food called karah parshad. It is made from flour, sugar and butter. This food is very important because it is a gift from the Gurdwara and the Gurus.



Karah parshad

THE BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK AROUND THE WORLD



Guru Nanak Gurburab takes place in lots of different countries because there are many Sikhs all around the world. Sikhs that live in Southall in London celebrate Guru Nanak's Birthday every year.

I hope you've learnt a lot about Guru Nanak's birthday and why we celebrate it. Why not see if there are any celebrations where you live?



Can you remember why Sikhs
celebrate *Guru Nanak's* birthday?

Which part of the celebration do
you think sounds like the most
fun?

GURU NANAK





School Reflection

This is our school,
Let peace dwell here,
Let the rooms be full of contentment.

Let love abide here,
Love of one another,
Love of mankind,
Love of life itself.

Let us remember
That as many hands build a house,
So many hearts make a school
Help us to learn, play and share together.

We hope our school will be a place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.

May it be a place where we love to learn and where we learn to love,
A place where everyone is respected, and all are deeply valued.