

The Formation of the Khalsa

Teachers' Notes

Some suggested discussions and activities for your class.

Discussion Questions:

- What is persecution? Can you think of any groups of people who are facing persecution today?
 - Why is it important to stand up for what you believe? Is there anything that you'd be willing to die for?
 - What is the symbolism behind calling all men "Singh" and all women "Kaur"?
 - How does being part of a group help individuals to stay strong in their beliefs?
 - Is it possible to treat everyone equally?
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Activities:

- Find out how Vaisakhi is celebrated by Sikhs today.
- Find out what happens at the Amrit Ceremony which Sikhs still go through today to become members of the Khalsa.
- All members of the Khalsa should wear the Five Ks – five things that all begin with a "K" in Punjabi. Find out what they are and what they symbolise for Sikhs.
- If you had to wear or carry five objects to symbolise who you are and what you believe in, what would they be? Write a description of each object and what it means to you.
- Write an account of Vaisakhi 1699 in your own words as though you were a member of the crowd who saw it all happen. What did you think was going on? How did you feel? Did you join the Khalsa? Why or why not?

"Who will give their head to my sword?"



Key Words:

Sikh	Persecution
Sikhism	Anandpur
Guru Gobind Singh	Punjab
Vaisakhi	Amrit Ceremony
Khalsa	

Notes:
