

WALT: know about the Khalsa

We are going to look at the founding of the Khalsa (the Sikh community) by the last human Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. After Guru Nanak, he is the most respected Guru.

During the 200 years after Guru Nanak's death, things had been changing in India. During the time of the first five Gurus there was peace and religious tolerance. Later though, there was persecution of non-Muslims and two Gurus were martyred.

The later Gurus had to think about how to make believers strong and protect their freedom and beliefs. Guru Gobind Singh became Guru at nine years old, after his father was martyred. Despite losing four sons to the persecution he continued to preach equality, love and peace, whilst insisting on strength and commitment from believers.

We need to consider the qualities needed for believers to stick with their beliefs when things get tough, and also ways in which symbols of membership can encourage a sense of community.

Think about something you believe strongly in (doesn't have to be religious)

Write

'I believe that...'

Now think about what would happen if everything went wrong with that belief.

This happened to the Sikhs - they were persecuted.

Guru Gobind Singh formed a group of Sikhs that would help them stick with their beliefs, even if things got tough.

The 5 Ks are a large part of the Khalsa. Why?

See if you can find out any ways the Khalsa helps the community today.