

# The Khalsa and Sikh identity.

To be able to explain how it feels to belong to a group.

To understand the Khalsa and Sikh identity.  
To know the key facts about the 5K's.  
To be able to explain how it feels to belong to a group.  
To understand how belonging to a group affects our lives.

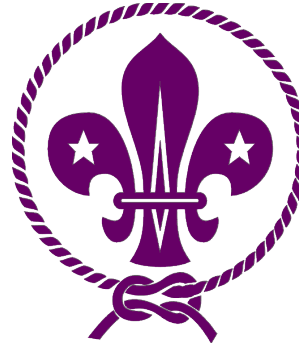
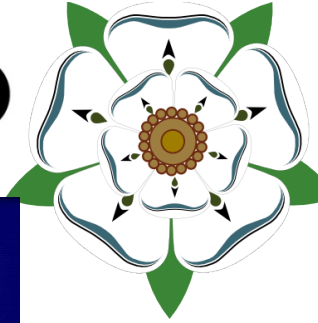
# **Keywords**

**Kesh, Kara, Kirpan, Kangha,  
Kachera**

**Identity, Belonging, Sikh,  
Khalsa**

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# To which groups do you belong?



- Which is the most important group you belong to and why?
- What makes you feel apart of your group?

# The Khalsa

Where did the 5Ks come from?

- <https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/formation-khalsa>

Answer these questions

1. Who was Guru Gobind Singh ?
2. Why is he important to Sikhs?
3. Does this make him the most important Guru? Discuss

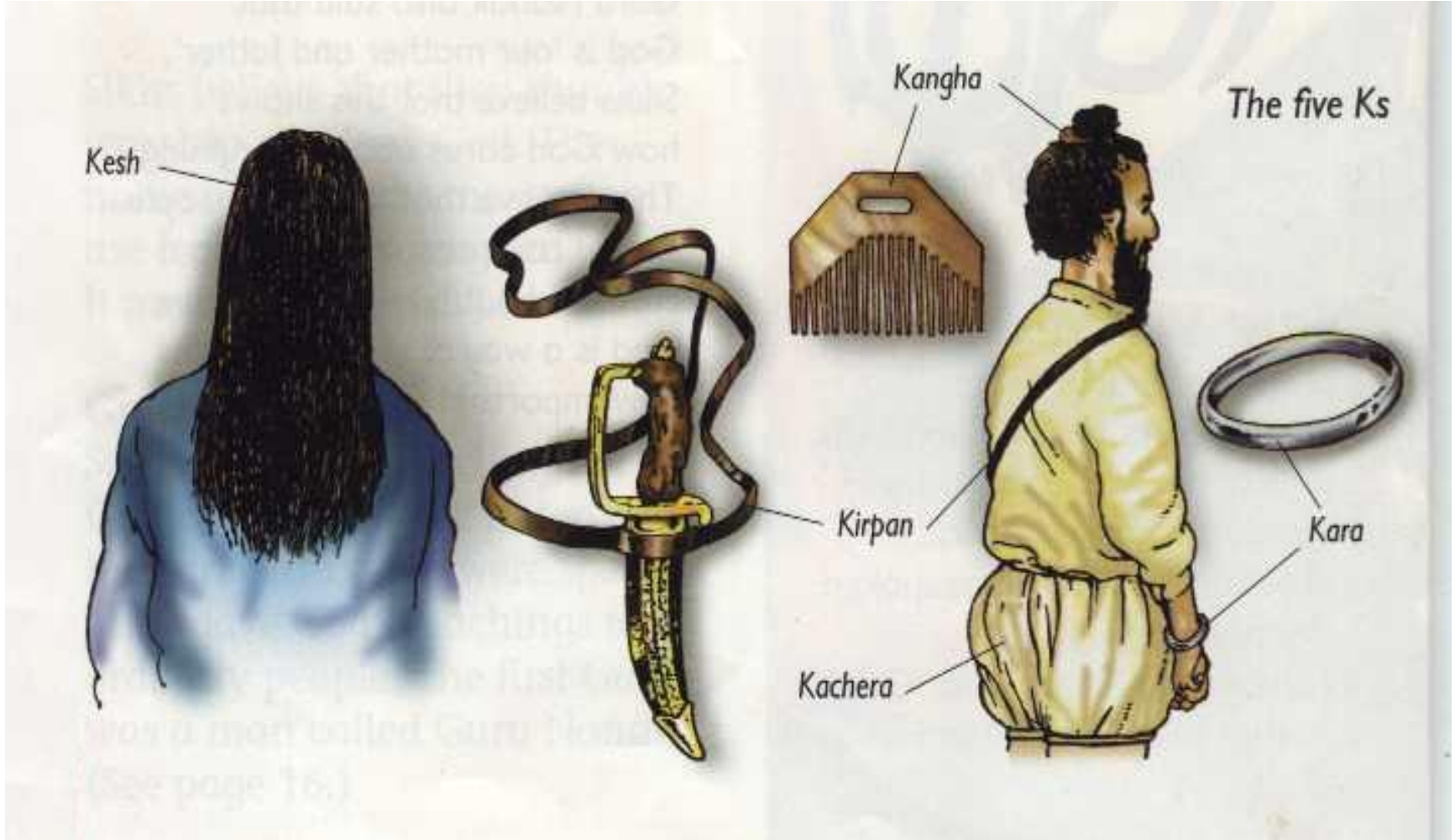
# Guru Gobind Singh, 1666-1708

## *Guru Gobind Singh was:*

- the last of the ten Gurus
- the one who transformed the Sikh faith. In 1699 he created the Khalsa (Pure), a community of the faithful who wore visible symbols of their faith and trained as warriors.
- Today the Khalsa comprises all practising Sikhs.
- Guru Gobind named the Guru Granth Sahib his successor
- Guru Gobind Singh succeeded his father Guru Tegh Bahadur at the age of 9. His teachings were different from his predecessors' - he believed that no power could exploit the Sikhs.
- He spent his childhood years studying Persian and Sanskrit, and was skilled in the art of war.
- Guru Gobind Singh introduced many of the customs that Sikhs practise today.

He declared the Sikh holy book as his successor instead of a human being. The Guru Granth Sahib would thus be the Sikhs' guide forever. Sikhs give it the same status and respect as a human Guru.

# The 5K's



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With the person next to you read through the sheet and pick out the key point:

What is the item?

What does it symbolise?

One other fact.

And write them next to the picture.

# KESH

- What is it? Uncut hair
- It symbolises acceptance of Gods will.



- Sikhs believe that hair is a gift from God and therefore must be kept long and never cut. It must be kept clean and protected normally by a turban.



# KANGHA

- What is it? Wooden comb
- It symbolises to be clean before God, both physically and spiritually.



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- The Kangha is used twice a day and kept in the hair when not in use.

# KARA

- What is it? Metal bracelet.
- Symbolises God the never ending circle.



- The Kara is like a handcuff to God to remind Sikhs to be good and to think before doing any action. It reminds Sikhs of God who is like a circle with no beginning or end. (Eternal)

# KACHERA

- What are they? Traditional white shorts.
- They symbolise chastity and readiness to defend the faith.



- Kachera is worn by both men and women to show equality. They are normally white to show cleanliness. (show that they are clean/fresh)

# KIRPAN

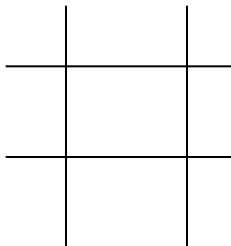
- What is it? Small dagger/sword.
- Its symbolises freedom and sacrifice.



- The Kirpan should never been drawn in anger. It is there to reminds Sikhs of harder times in their past. Sikhs should stick up for what's right and help the weak and needy.

- <https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/five-ks-sikhism>

# The 5 K's Bingo

- Make a 3 x 3 grid on a piece of paper.
- Inside the 9 boxes choose which of the 5K's to write down. Some you will need to repeat.
-  Kirpan Kachera Kesh Kangha Kara
- You will hear clues for one of these features. Identify which of the 5 K's it is a cross it off your grid. Some words will be repeated.

# Clues for 5 K's Bingo

- Use a variety of clues for each of the 5 K's, only one clue at a time so you can go to the same word again in the same game or a different game!
- Kangha = item with teeth, made of wood, used to keep hair clean, kept under turban, used twice a day, reminder of discipline to follow God's will
- Kirpan = dagger, small curved sword, reminds Sikhs of the courage of first 5 Gurus, defends the weak, symbolises freedom and sacrifice, never drawn in anger
- Kara = made of steel metal, worn on right wrist, reminds Sikhs to do no wrong, symbol of strength, unity and God's eternity, circle means never ending like God
- Kachera = made of cotton, white item, worn to make it more hygienic, easier to ride on a saddle, reminder to be ready to defend the faith, symbol of chastity, worn by all sexes
- Kesh = uncut hair, must be kept clean, covered in a turban, part of God's creation, instructed by Guru Gobind Singh, 10<sup>th</sup> Guru introduced it to show willingness to follow God's instruction