

The Sikh Festival of Vaisakhi

This work is all about how Sikh people remember a story from the life of the Tenth Guru, who is called Guru Govind Singh, and lived over 300 years ago in India. The story is remembered at the Sikh festival of Vaisakhi. There are nearly half a million Sikh people in the UK today, and millions more in India and other parts of the world.

Start by watching the short film about Simran's Vaisakhi – she is 11. You can watch it here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mx76l>

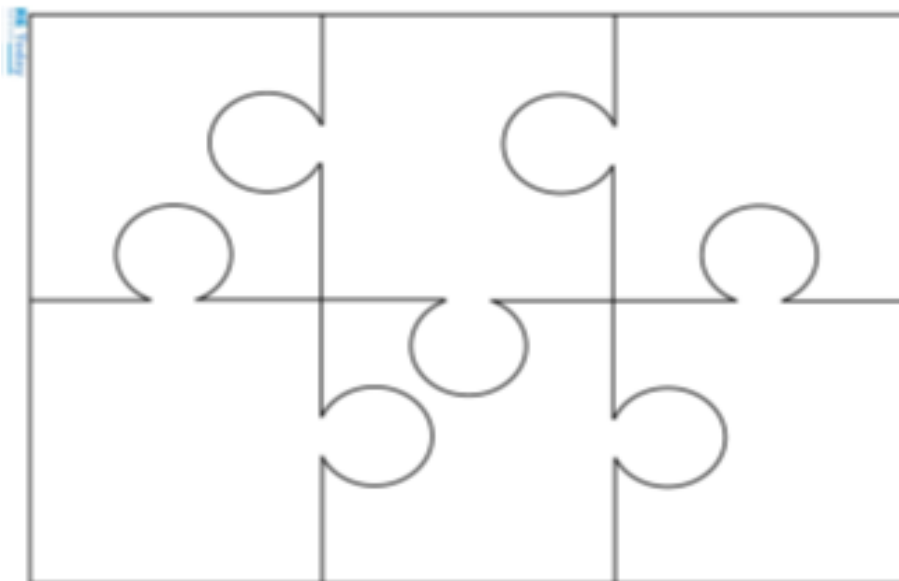


Can you remember 5 fascinating facts from the film? Can you remember 5 key words? Note them down.

Note to parents and carers: This set of home learning ideas for 7-11 year olds uses two of the BBC My Life, My Religion films. Children can access these films via the links and QR codes provided.

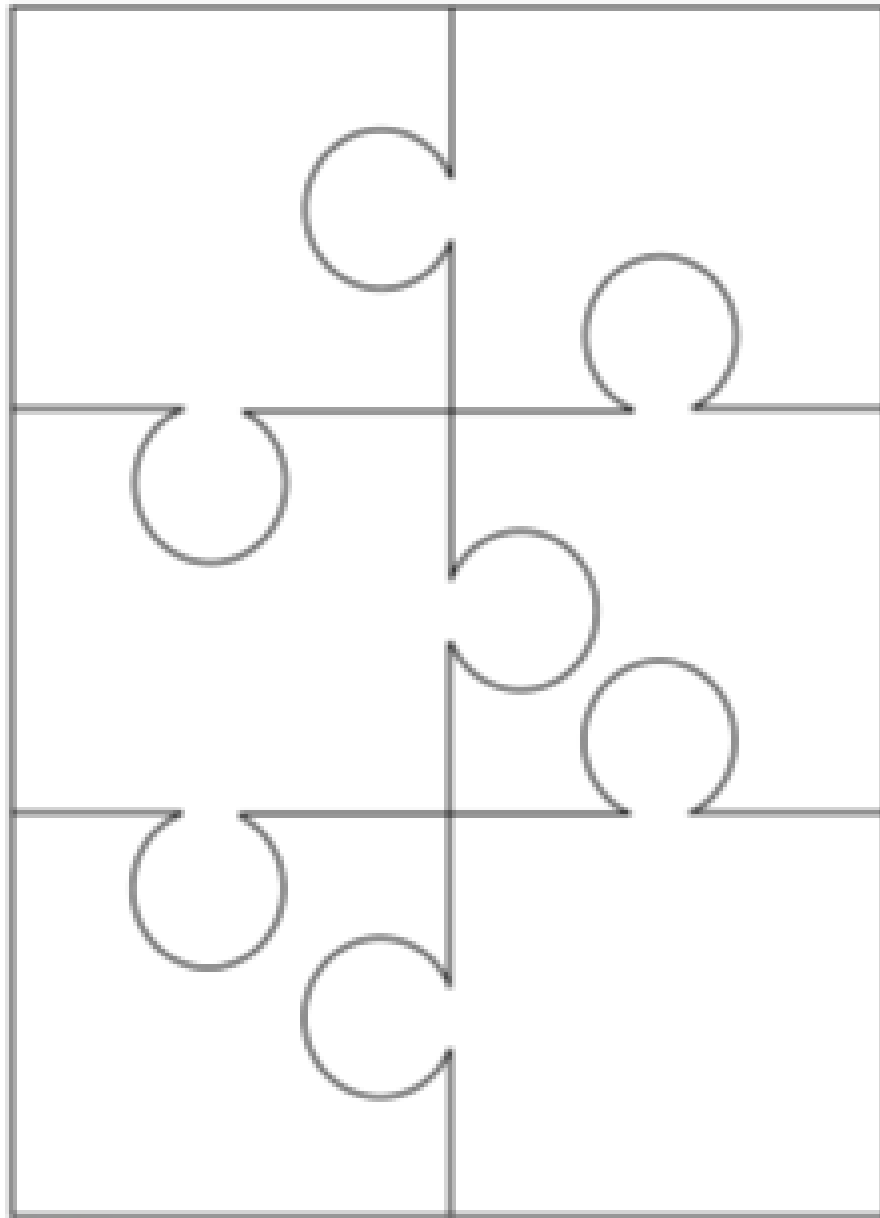
Simran's identity

Our festivals are a way of showing our identity. Our identities are who we think we are, and can include our friends and family, values, beliefs and behaviours that we think are important. Imagine Simran's identity as a jigsaw: can you draw into this jigsaw six things about her life, and label your drawings?



Your identity

Now think about your own identity. Make a jigsaw that shows six things about you – maybe things to do with family, festivals, your beliefs, favourite places, songs or films, pets – all the things that matter most to you. Label your drawings in detail.



Compare the two jigsaws, yours and Simran's. Can you see some similarities and differences? We are all humans, so we can often find both similarities and differences between ourselves.

Similarities and differences

Simran and myself are similar because...

Simran and myself are different because...

'We are all human'. What I think about this phrase is...

A religious story

Religious festivals often start with an old story. Here is the story of how the Guru started the Khalsa over 300 years ago.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mx6vs>



The story is told using shadow puppets. The tradition of using shadow puppets goes back to long before there were videos and TVs, but it is still fun today. Use a black felt pen or a pencil to draw two scenes from the story here, in shadow puppet style. One scene should be called 'danger' and the other 'commitment'.

Danger	Commitment

Keywords

Here are some keywords for Sikhs. Write down what each one means (it might help you to watch the video again).

Khalsa

Kaur and Singh

Panj Pyare (the 'Beloved Five')

Commitment

Sacrifice

Sikh storyteller and teacher, Butta Singh, says: *'Being a Khalsa Sikh is a choice and once you've made that choice you've made a commitment. And that commitment is to love God with all your heart and if need be sacrifice whatever you have for God.'*

Sacrifice is giving up something special for another thing that is even more important. What did the people in the story sacrifice? Why?

What do Sikhs sacrifice today, for their religion? Give 3 examples.

Can you write an example of a time when you gave something up for a good reason?