

Sikh role models (Gurus and naming)	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 2+
Learning objectives: To learn about significant aspects of the lives of the ten gurus of Sikhism. To learn about the Sikh naming ceremony. To learn about some of the key values of Sikhism.		
Themes to discuss: heroism, leadership, commitment, living up to one's reputation or name, standing up for what is right		
<p>Activities and experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask pupils to make two lists of heroes – their heroes and people who are heroes to other people (include at least two reasons why each person is on the list). Create a class list to answer the question “What qualities make someone a hero?” • Discover / share/ tell some stories about the Sikh Gurus e.g Guru Tegh Bahadur's martyrdom, the young Guru Harkrishan or Guru Gobind Singh . Sikhs would refer to Gurus as saints rather than heroes, but consider what special qualities the Gurus have which make them “heroes / special”. Pictures of the Gurus and their symbols will help remind people of particular features of their lives. Try hot-seating where pupils take on the role of observers at these special events and empathise with the characters in the story. (Tip: be sensitive to Sikh beliefs and do not portray the Gurus in drama.) • Be a hero yourself! Investigate Sikh surnames (women = Kaur = princess, men = Singh – lion) and discuss what kind of behaviour / attitudes would be expected of people carrying these names. Extend this to first names (girls and boys in the Sikh community can have the same first names – the meaning is very important) e.g. “Sukhinder” means “ peace of God”. At this stage children who know the meaning of their names may like to contribute from their personal experiences. • Discover the Nishan Sahib (flag) – how it is used as a Sikh symbol, and its particular meaning, which connects with the theme of defending the right and the needy. • Extension task (a) – Google some modern Sikh role models e.g. Khalpana Chawla (first female Indian astronaut). • Extension task (b) - explore the Sikh naming ceremony 		
<p>Websites and resources</p> <p>Sikh Stories, Anita Ganeri. All Sikh sites websites have information and stories about the Gurus – try http://allaboutsikhs.com/guru.htm or http://www.sikhs.org/10gurus.htm for yourself and http://www.sikhnet.com/s/SikhStories and http://www.sikhnet.com/s/sakhis for pupils. Listen to “the Guru (Harkrishnan) and the Pandit” on-line at http://www.sikhnet.com/Gurbani A good selection of Sikh names can be found at http://www.sikhs.org/names.htm and the naming ceremony itself at http://www.sikhs.org/fest.htm with the Nishan Sahib at http://www.sikhs.org/khanda.htm</p>		