

The Guru's Cloak



The activities in this Programme link to the Squirrel Smile Awards – I'm Caring as the Squirrels learn something about the Sikh faith.

An introductory activity can be used as the Squirrels arrive at the meeting place – colouring or simple puzzles can keep children occupied until all the Drey arrives or use a 'joining-in' style game, such as 'The farmer wants a wife' or 'Duck, duck, goose' or a circle format ball game.

Add snack time where necessary!

TIME (mins)	ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT
5	Welcome, Register, Opening Ceremony, Introduction to Programme	
10	<p>GAME: Kan You Find It?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Position some pictures that begin with 'K' round the walls of the meeting place</i> ○ <i>A Leader calls out a picture and the Squirrels run to the appropriate picture</i> 	<p>Pictures – kite, kangaroo, koala, key, kennel, etc. Blutack</p>
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Some Sikh Signs</p> <p>The Squirrels should sit in a circle on the floor with their Leaders – if the Drey is large split into smaller circles. Explain that there are lots of different faiths and beliefs all over the world, even in one town there can be all sorts of places to worship.</p> <p>The Sikh faith was founded in north India about 500 years ago by a young man called Guru Nanak. Guru means 'teacher' and Sikh means 'student', so people learn the teachings of the Guru. The Sikh faith has many festivals celebrating special events in the lives of the Gurus.</p> <p>Sikh boys and men don't cut their hair – boys wear a head covering called a 'patka'. Men wear turbans and five special things that begin with the letter 'K' to show that they are part of the 'Khalsa' or Sikh community. A list of the five items beginning with 'K' is below.</p>	<p>Pictures of five items</p>
10	<p>ACTIVITY: Guru Puppet</p> <p>Give each Squirrel a Guru template to colour, attach a lolly stick!</p>	<p>Template, crayons Lolly stick, sticky fixers</p>
10	<p>ACTIVITY: The Guru and his Cloak</p> <p>Tell the Drey the story of Guru Hargobind and his very special cloak! An abridged version of the story is included below.</p>	<p>Story</p>
10	<p>GAME: Follow the Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Choose a Squirrel to pretend to be The Guru with his special cloak</i> ○ <i>The rest of the Drey creates a long line behind the 'Guru' and copy the actions carried out by the 'Guru'</i> ○ <i>Ensure that the leader of the line is changed regularly so that everyone gets a turn of choosing the actions!</i> 	<p>None</p>
5	Closing, Home	



The Guru and his special cloak

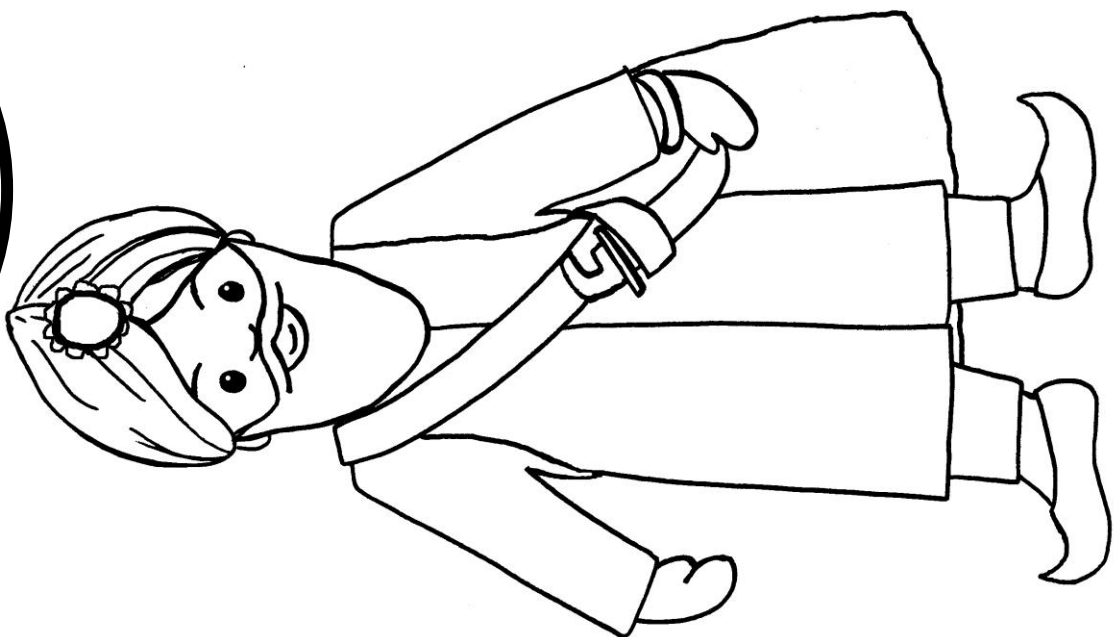
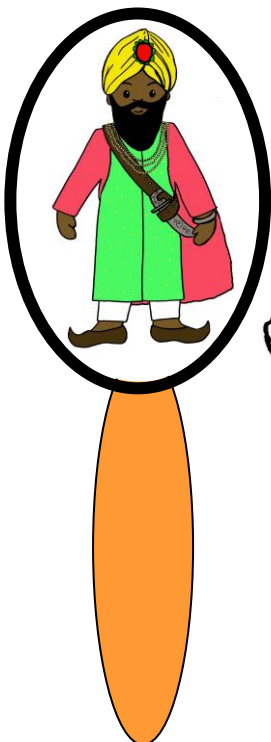
A long, long time ago in India there was a Sikh leader called Guru Hargobind. Everyone loved Guru Hargobind except for the Emperor who ruled India - he was a very cross man and was jealous of Guru Hargobind because people liked him more than they liked the Emperor.

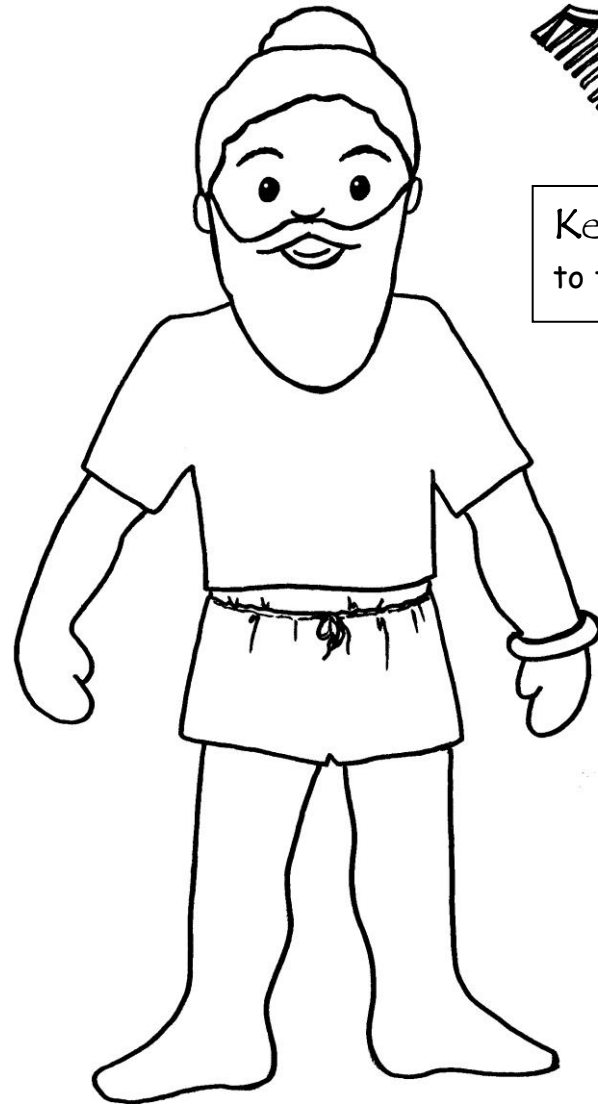
The Emperor got so cross that he decided to put Guru Hargobind in prison. He put 52 princes in prison with him. Guru Hargobind was treated well and given a comfortable room and nice food but the princes' beautiful, rich clothes were taken away and they were made to wear old rags. They weren't given very much food so they were very hungry and unhappy all the time.

One day the Emperor became ill, he was frightened and asked Guru Hargobind to say some prayers to help him get better. The Emperor did get better and to say 'thank you' he decided to let Guru Hargobind free from prison. Guru told the Emperor that he would only go free if the 52 princes could leave prison with him. The Emperor thought for a while and then said, 'Only the princes who hold onto your cloak can go free and you must leave the prison through the very narrow gate.'

Guru looked at his cloak and wondered how 52 princes would hold onto it to be free. Guru looked at the narrow gate; it was so narrow that only one person could go through it at a time. He puzzled about how 52 princes could go through the small gateway holding on to his cloak. Then the clever Guru had a wonderful idea, he would have a special cloak made with 52 silken tassels sewn onto the hem. Each tassel would be a different length. There would be one silk tassel for each prince and all 52 princes could walk through the narrow gate in a straight line holding on to Guru Hargobind's cloak!

Guru Hargobind led the way out of the prison's narrow gate followed by all the 52 princes. Everyone was so happy that they were all freed that they had a big party with lots of food and fireworks!!





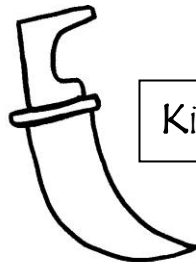
Kangha - wooden comb worn in the hair

Kesh - long hair and beard, the kangha is used to tidy the hair and keep it in place

Kara - metal bracelet



Kachera - shorts



Kirpan - dagger

