

Sacred texts

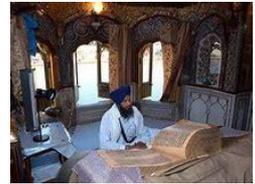
Christians

- The Bible contains many Christian symbols, which help us to understand what is written, especially abstract ideas.
- They often represent God’s love for humanity.
- Common symbols include: dove (peace and Holy Spirit), cross and crucifix (Jesus died on a cross), fish / ichthus (see key vocab), rainbow (sign from God of his relationship with us), rock (God’s strength and permanence), lamb (sacrifice Jesus made)
- Symbols often used instead of words as many early Christians illiterate and relate to everyday items relevant to common people.
- Permanent reminder of God’s presence and love.
- Cross and crucifix seen in homes and as necklace.
- Fish seen on car stickers, and doves still released as sign of desire for peace.



Sikhs

- The Guru Granth Sahib is a collection of teachings by Guru Nanak, other Gurus and members of other faiths.
- The Gurus taught that there are many ways of achieving a connection with God, Sikhism is only one of them, and this is why teachings from other faiths are in the Guru Granth Sahib.
- It is the living Guru of the Sikhs – it teaches them.
- It is written in poetry, spoken to special Sikh classical music.
- The book is kept under a canopy in every Gurdwara. Sikhs must take off their shoes in its presence and never turn their back on it.
- Most Sikhs do not have copy of Guru Granth Sahib in own home but own other collections of prayers and poems.
- At home, they worship daily, sometimes twice,
- by praying and meditating.
- They use Mala and repeat “Waheguru” each time one of the 108 knots pass through their fingers.



Bible symbols



The dove represents the holy spirit



Sikh symbol



This shows the khanda, the chakkar and two crossed kirpans

Key Vocabulary

crucifix	Cross showing Jesus dying on it.
ichthus	Symbolic image of a fish. It was a secret symbol between Christians in Roman times. Represents Jesus being a “fisher of men”.
interpretation	Explaining the meaning of something
Guru	A spiritual teacher or guide.
Gurdwara	A Sikh temple.
Khanda	A double edged sword.
Mala	Prayer beads with 108 knots.
Chakkar	Circle representing God as having no beginning or end
kirpans	swords, representing spiritual authority and power.