

**Sacred texts**

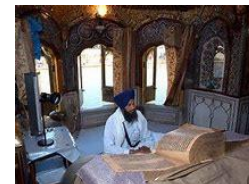
**Christians**

- 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.