

Sacred texts

Christians

- The Bible contains many Christian symbols.
- The symbols 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)



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.



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.
interpretation	Explaining the meaning of something
Guru	A spiritual teacher or guide
Gurdwara	A Sikh temple
Khanda	A double edged sword
Chakkar	Circle representing God as having no beginning or end
kirpans	swords, representing spiritual authority and power.