

Name _____

Sikhism: The Path of Equality and Devotion

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Guru Nanak Dev Ji, born in 1469 in present-day Pakistan, was the founder of Sikhism. His teachings emphasized the oneness of God, equality, and the rejection of caste distinctions. He traveled extensively, spreading his message of love, compassion, and devotion. His teachings laid the foundation for Sikhism, inspiring nine successive Gurus to further develop Sikh philosophy.
2. Sikhism has a global presence, and Sikh communities have adapted to different cultural contexts while preserving their core beliefs. For example, in Canada and the United States, Sikhs have maintained their religious practices and traditions while contributing to multicultural societies. They have built Gurdwaras, practiced langar, and promoted interfaith dialogue. Sikhism's emphasis on equality and service aligns with the values of diverse societies.
3. Service and selflessness are integral to Sikhism. Sikhs engage in charitable acts by running Gurdwaras with langar services, providing free meals to all, and participating in community service projects such as food distribution to the homeless. Sikh organizations also engage in disaster relief and humanitarian aid worldwide. These acts of service embody Sikh values of compassion and equality.
4. Sikhism's emphasis on equality and community service contributes to a more inclusive and compassionate society by promoting the idea that all individuals are equal, regardless of their background. This fosters a sense of belonging and unity among diverse communities. The practice of langar, where everyone sits together and shares a meal, breaks down social barriers and promotes understanding. It serves as a model for promoting equality, selflessness, and compassion in society, ultimately making it more inclusive and harmonious.

