

Diwali Religious Festival Story

Sikh Festival of Lights



Religious Education KS1
Sikhism

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Diwali is an important Sikh festival.

It celebrates Guru Hargobind's release from prison, while rescuing 52 other prisoners at the same time.

Share the story on the following pages with the children. You can also download the accompanying PowerPoint to display the story to the class.





Guru Hargobind's father, Guru Arjan Dev, chose him to be the next guru after him.

That was way back in 1606. Guru Hargobind was only 11 years old.





Emperor Jahangir thought that gurus had too much influence – or were too popular.

So he put Guru Hargobind in prison.



There were already 52 other prisoners in jail.

They had all displeased the emperor in one way or another.



Eventually the emperor agreed to release Guru Hargobind.

Guru asked if the other 52 prisoners could also be released.



Emperor Jahangir agreed to release any prisoner who could hold onto the cloak of the Guru.





So Guru Hargobind had a special cloak made, which had 52 strings attached to it.

Every prisoner was able to hold onto the cloak.

So, all the prisoners were released!



A great celebration was held.
The Golden Temple was lit.





Sikhs celebrate Diwali today.

The Golden Temple in Amritsar, India, is lit up with lights. And Sikhs light up their temples in many towns across the world.

Sikhs hold family parties, exchange gifts.

And let off fireworks to drive away evil.





Questions

How did this story make you feel?

How do you think Guru Hargobind helped others?

Why do you think the emperor said that he would release prisoners who could hold the cloak?

Diwali is a special family celebration.

Can you think of other family celebrations?

