

# Who are the Sikhs?



# Common Misconception



***Fiction:*** *Sikhs are Muslim because they wear a turban and have a beard.*

**Fact:** Turbans are worn in many countries as a cultural dress. However, the turban is required to be worn by a Sikh, and it is a religious article of faith.

# Common Misconception

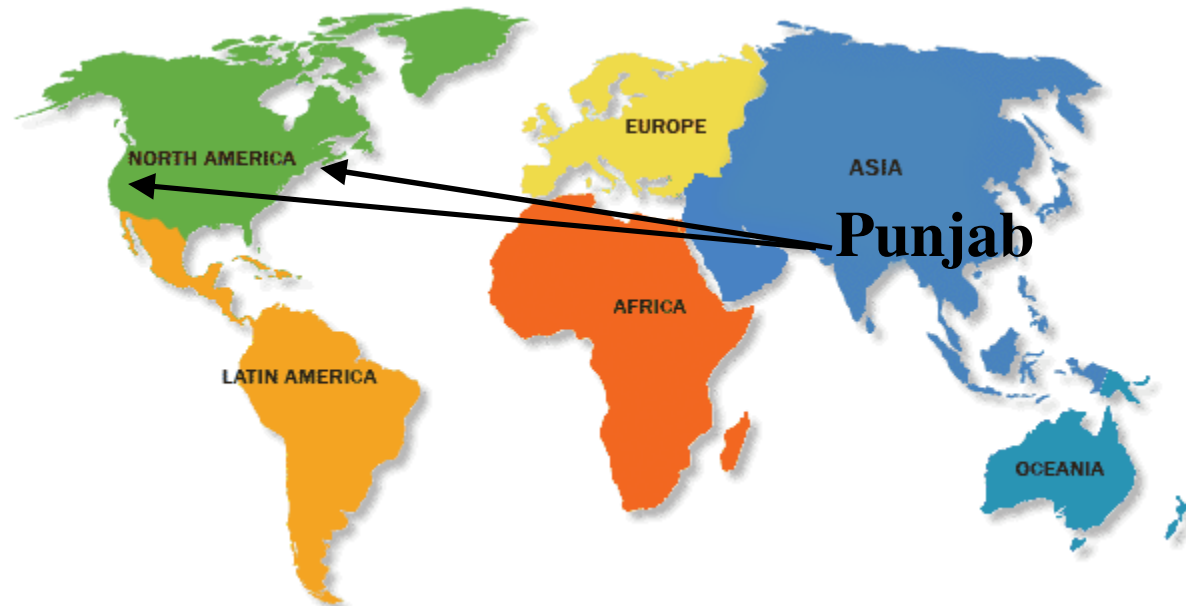


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***Fiction:*** *Sikhism is a blend of Hinduism and Islam.*

**Fact:** Sikhism is not a blend of Hinduism and Islam. It has its own scriptures, gurus, and houses of worship. Sikhism is a separate faith, and is not a branch of any other religion.

# Sikhs came to America more than 100 years ago



- West Coast and later in New York
- Farming & Lumber Industry
- Pioneers
  - Immigration Policy
  - Citizenship Reform
  - Representation in Federal Government

# Sikhism in Brief

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2. Islam – 1.4 billion
3. Hinduism – 1.2 billion
4. Buddhism – 690 million
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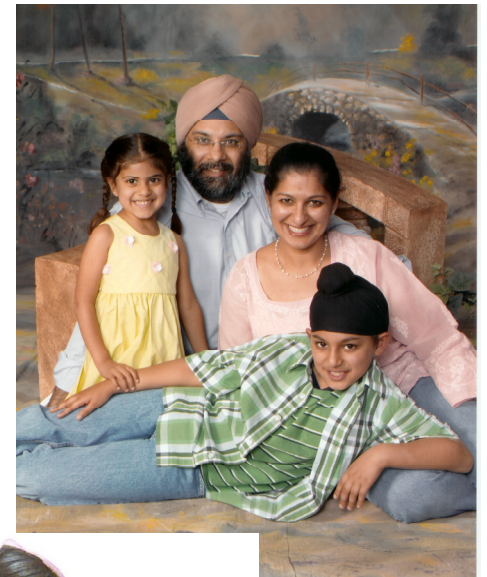
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6. Judaism – 15 million

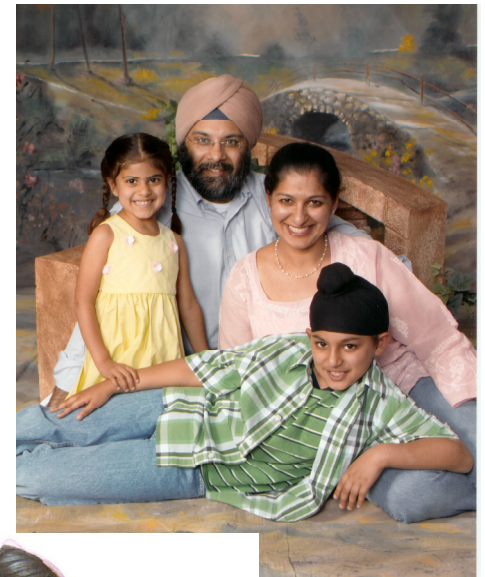


# Core Sikh Beliefs



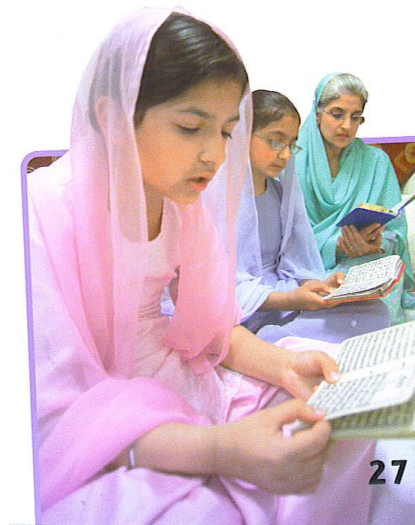
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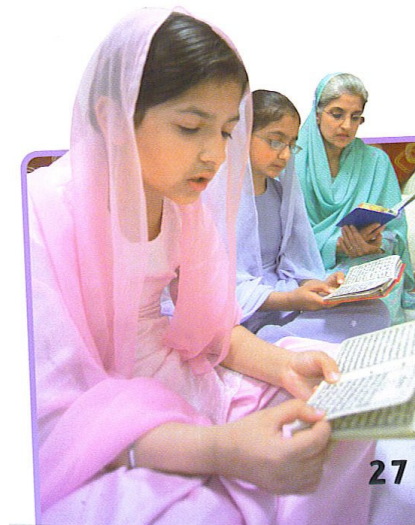
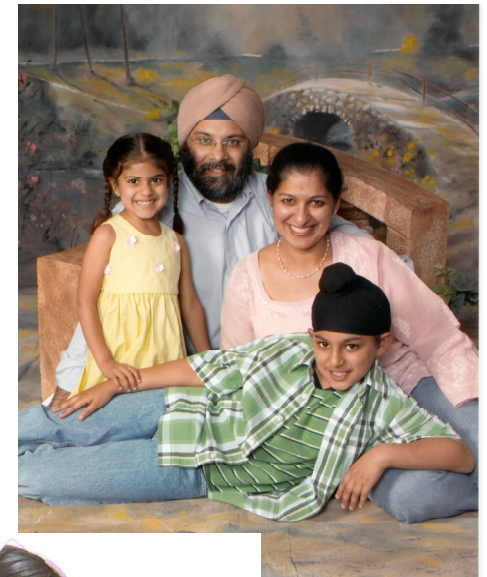
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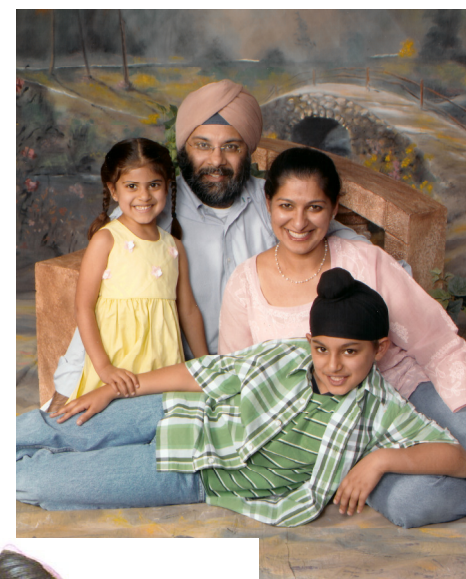
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  - Sikhs are supposed to work and live honestly





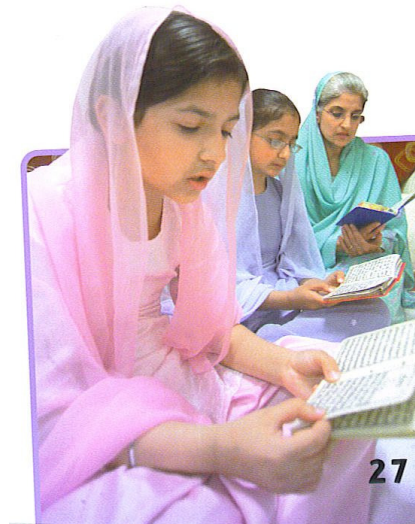
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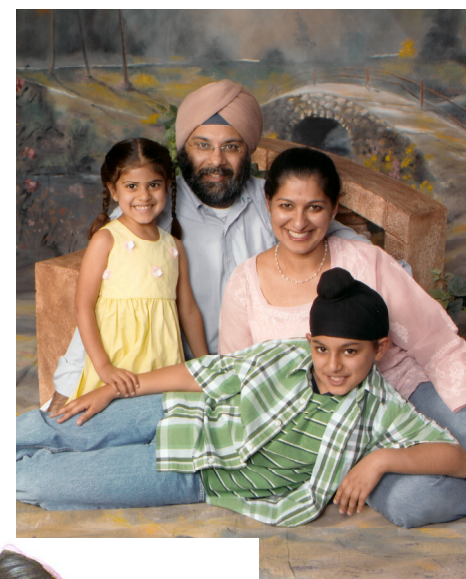
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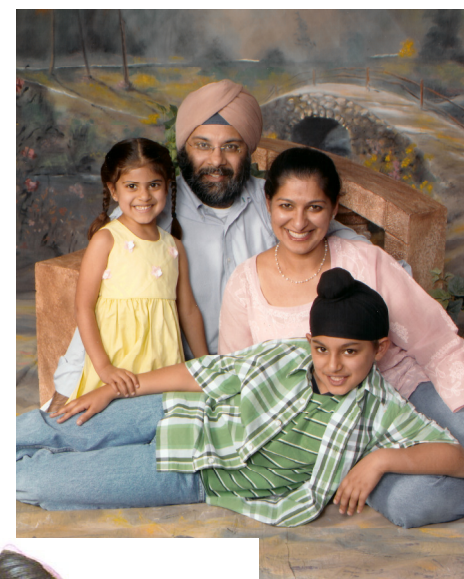
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- **Sikhism prohibits:**
  - Smoking, drinking, taking of any intoxicants





# Vaisakhi



- Khalsa – community of initiated Sikhs
  - Commitment to this faith
  - Can be done at any time in one's life
- What Does It Mean?
  - Distinct external appearance
  - Keep Singh/Kaur as last name

# The 5 “Ks”





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**GOOD DEEDS**



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**SPIRITUALITY**



*Comb (Kanga)*  
**CLEANLINESS**

# The Sikh Turban

- 99% of the people wearing a turban in the U.S. are Sikhs
- It is a religious obligation for Sikhs
- Can always be recognized and are duty bound to offer help
- Under no circumstances can the turban be forcibly removed





# Turbans Illustrated

## Sikh Turban



**Sikh Turban**



**Sikh Turban**



**Sikh Turban**



**Sikh Turban**

## Non-Sikh Turban



**Afghan Turban**



**Palestinian Turban**



**Indian Turban**



**Iranian Turban**

## Gu Ru

- 10 Sikh Gurus
- Mission
  - Love for God
  - Social justice for humanity
  - Freedom from superstitions and rituals
- Their ideals and teachings were preserved through their writings and actions

# Guru – “Spiritual Guide”

The Guru Granth Sahib (holy scripture) and the Guru Panth (community of initiated Sikhs) are the present Guru

## Guru Granth Sahib

- 1430 pages written in poetry
- Considered the living Guru of the Sikhs
- Teaches you how to be kind, tell the truth, love and respect everyone
- Sikh services consist of singing from the scripture



# Gurdwara

- Place of learning and worship
- Everyone welcome
- Services typically held on weekends
- Community Kitchen for all (Langar)



# Most Sikhs Speak Punjabi

- Over 80 million people speak Punjabi
- Punjabi is written from left to right
- The Punjabi alphabet contains 35 letters

ਹੈਲੋ

ੳ ਅ ਏ ਸ ਹ  
ਕ ਖ ਗ ਘ ਙ  
ਚ ਛ ਜ ਝ ਵ  
ਟ ਠ ਡ ਢ ਣ  
ਤ ਥ ਦ ਧ ਨ  
ਪ ਫ ਬ ਭ ਮ  
ਯ ਰ ਲ ਵ ਝ



# **Sikhs can be found in many different professions today!**

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**Artists**

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**Artists**



**Actor**

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**Artists**



**Actor**



**Basketball Player**

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**Doctor**



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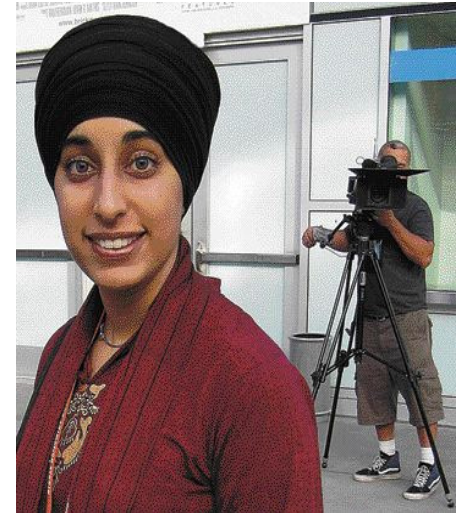
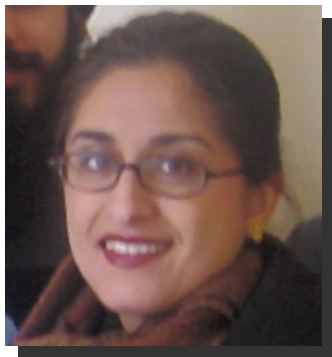




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**Doctor**



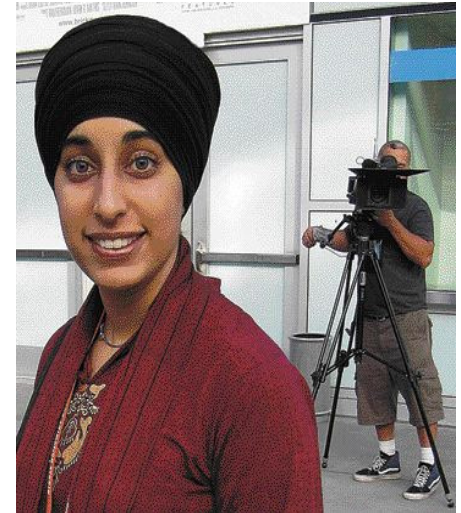
**Filmmaker**



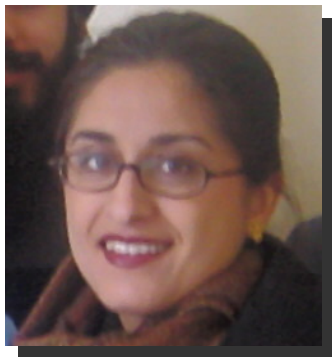
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**Doctor**



**Filmmaker**



**Farmer**



Coalition

the voice of a people

**For more information, visit:**

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