

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS · GRADES 3–5

Vaisakhi

Sikh New Year and Harvest

Quick facts

When	April 13 or 14 each year.
Celebrated by	Sikhs and many Hindus, especially in Punjab, India.
What it marks	The start of the spring harvest — and for Sikhs, the founding of the Khalsa in 1699.
Greeting	'Vaisakhi di lakh lakh vadhaiyan!' (Many congratulations on Vaisakhi!)

Why Vaisakhi matters to Sikhs

On April 13, 1699, the 10th Sikh Guru — Guru Gobind Singh — established the Khalsa, a community of committed Sikhs. He chose five volunteers (the 'Panj Pyare', or 'Beloved Five') and gave them a new identity and code of conduct. This event is at the heart of Sikh identity. Vaisakhi celebrates this every year.

How Vaisakhi is celebrated

Visiting the gurdwara

Sikh families visit the gurdwara (Sikh temple) for special services. The Sikh holy book — Guru Granth Sahib — is read.

Nagar Kirtan parades

Big processions through the streets — singing hymns, sharing food, displays of martial arts (Gatka). London, Birmingham and other UK cities host enormous Vaisakhi parades.



Langar — community kitchen

Sikh tradition includes free vegetarian meals served to everyone, regardless of religion or background. Vaisakhi is a particularly big day for langar.

Harvest celebrations

In Punjab, traditional folk dances like Bhangra and Giddha celebrate the harvest. Bright colors, drums, exuberance.

