![INTACH logo]

SACRED ARCHITECTURE

GURDWARA

Platform & Canopy
Kitchen
Dome above
Diwan Hall
Langar Hall
Shoe room
Flagpole

This is a general layout of a gurdwara indicating the different sections that are generally there.
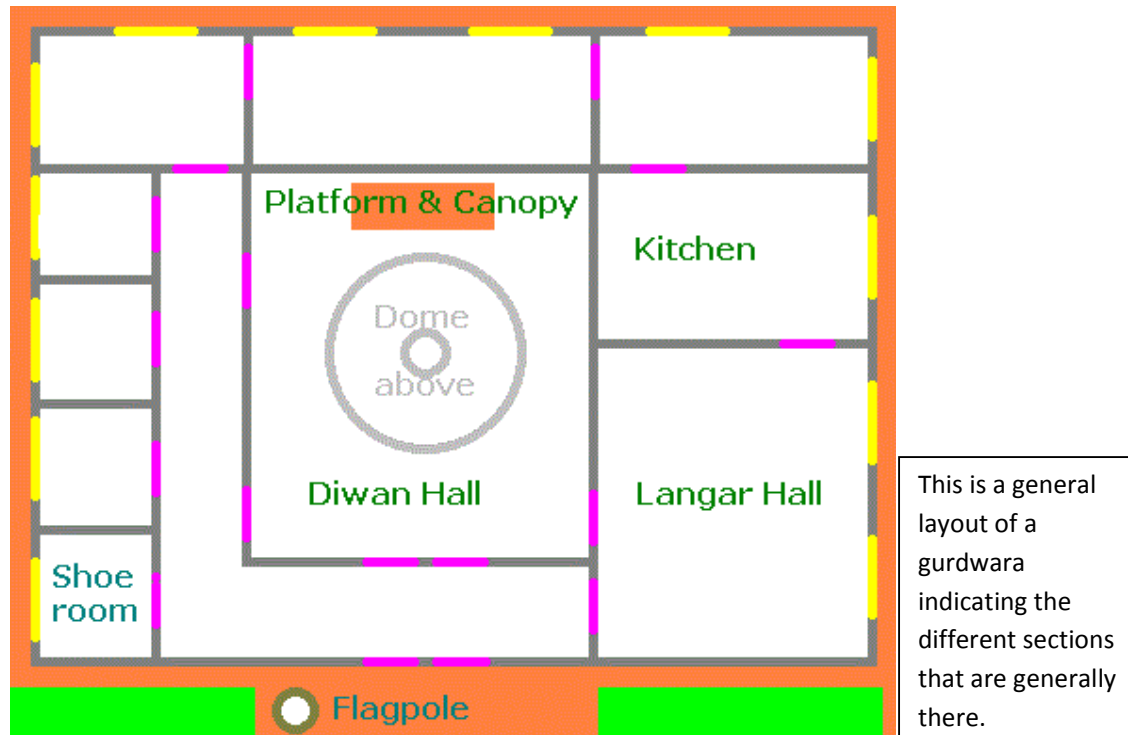
A Gurdwara meaning "doorway to God" is a place of worship for the followers of Sikhism. A gurdwara can be identified by tall flagpoles that bear the sikh symbol.

Layout of a Gurdwara

Flagpole – it is where the nishan sahib (holy flag) is hoisted. It acts as a welcome banner to visitors signifying the Guru Granth Sahib.

Diwan Hall – it is the prayer hall where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept. Guru Granth Sahib is the holy text. It is kept on a platform covered by a canopy.

Dome – usually there is a dome on the top of the diwan hall. It is usually white and sometimes gilded. The bigger domes are ribbed or fluted with an inverted lotus on top.

Langar Hall – this is the place where langar (food) is served and eaten.

Tank – pools, water tanks or wells are usually there in the gurdwaras where one can take a holy dip or drink the holy water from it.

Activity

1. Visit a Gurdwara near your house and take a tour of the entire gurdwara. Notice how they worship.
2. Take part in serving 'langar'. It is considered very noble and besides a fun activity too. Be sure not to waste any food though.

DID YOU KNOW

The term Sikh has its origin in Sanskrit meaning disciple, student or instruction. So, a Sikh is a disciple/subject of the Guru.

Origin of Sikhism

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism in the 15th century in the Punjab region. He was followed by 9 other gurus, the 10th one being Guru Gobind Singh. Sikhism is a comparatively new religion.

The Golden Temple also known as 'the Harmandir Sahib' is located in Amritsar. The construction work was begun by Guru Ram Das and completed by Guru Arjan Dev. Maharaja Ranjit Singh covered the gurdwara with gold and hence it has got the name Golden Temple.

Activity

Draw layout of a gurdwara.
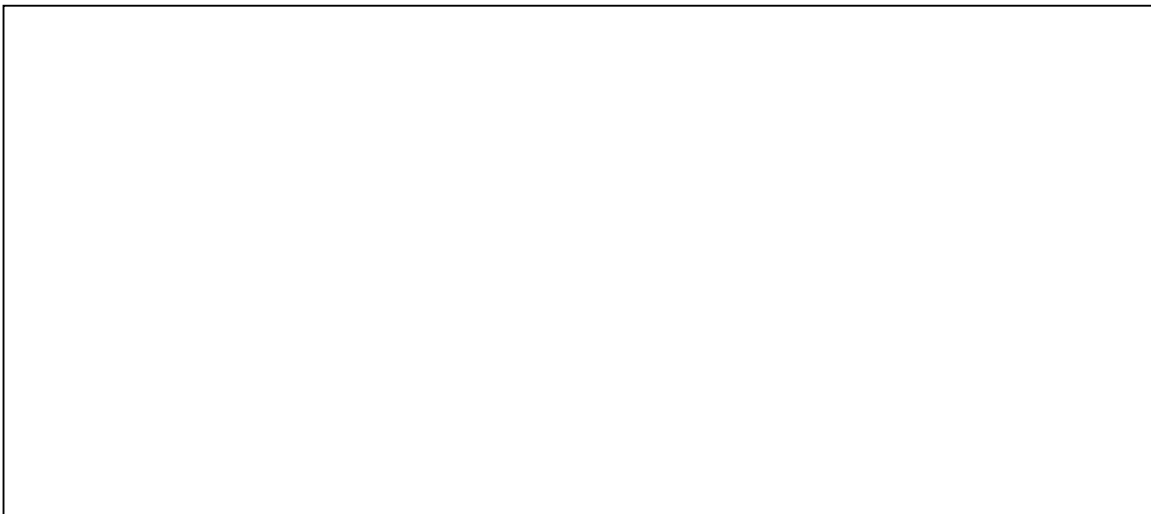
The first gurdwara was built by the first Guru, Shri Guru Nanak Dev in the year 1521 in Kartarpur on the banks of the Ravi River.