



## Did you know?

### Fascinating Facts and Interesting Information about Cultural Diversity

#### Hinduism and Sikhism

In the aftermath of the tragedy at the Oak Creek Sikh Temple yesterday, some of you requested that we share information about Sikh and Hindu cultures...their similarities and differences.

#### Sikhism

Sikh religion was founded during the 15th century in the Punjab region, by Guru Nanak Dev and continued to progress with nine successive Sikh gurus. Considered the fifth largest in the world, it has more than 22 million followers world-wide. The followers of Sikhi are ordained to follow the teachings of the ten Sikh gurus, or enlightened leaders, as well as the Holy Scripture entitled the Gurū Granth Sāhib Ji. In Sikhi, God—termed Vāhigurū—is nirañkāṛ, akaal, and alakh (shapeless, timeless, and sightless). Like Hindus, Sikhs believe in reincarnation and "Dharma," or righteousness which is the key to spiritual advancement.

Source: [Wikipedia](#) and other Web sites

Additional links from the Diversity section of the Web site:

- [Sikh: Quick Reference](#) (MCHC)
- [Sikh: Complete Guide](#) (MCHC)
- [Sikh Patient's Protocol for Health Care Providers](#)

#### Hinduism

Hinduism is an ancient and predominant religion of the Indian subcontinent; according to historians, the origin of Hinduism dates back to 5,000 or more years. The word "Hindu" is derived from the name of River Indus, which flows through northern India. The term "Hinduism" simply refers to a wide variety of religious traditions and philosophies that have developed in India over thousands of years. Most Hindus worship one or more deities, believe in reincarnation, value the practice of meditation, and observe festive holidays like Diwali and Holi. One orthodox classification of Hindu texts is to divide into Śruti ("revealed") and Smṛiti ("remembered") texts. These texts discuss theology, philosophy, mythology. Major scriptures include the Vedas, Upanishads, Purāṇas, Mahābhārata, Rāmāyaṇa, Bhagavad Gītā and Āgamas.

Source: [Wikipedia](#) and other Web sites

Additional links from the Diversity section of the Web site:

- [Hindu: Quick Reference](#) (MCHC)
- [Hindu: Complete version](#) (MCHC)
- [Hindu Dietary Practices](#)

For further information on other cultures, please visit the **Cultural Groups** section of the **Cultural Diversity Web Site**.

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