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## RE Task Guidance Sheet

Vaisakhi (also known as Baisakhi) is the festival which celebrates Sikh New Year and the founding of the Sikh community (otherwise referred to as the Khalsa). It is celebrated on April 13<sup>th</sup> or the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was originally a harvest festival in the Punjab before it became Sikhism's most important festival.

Take a look at this video to find out more:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsjpyrd/articles/z6qqy9q>

**Task:** Listen to the Loom video for the story of Baisakhi and a short quiz at the end. On the sheet provided, you need to illustrate the story of Baisakhi explaining what happens at each stage. You can use the story template below to help you structure this.

**Extension Task:** Explain and find evidence for 'Why do many Sikhs choose to renew their promises during this time?'

### **The Story of Baisakhi**

In 1699, Sikhs from all over the Punjab gathered together to celebrate the local harvest festival of Baisakhi.

Guru Gobind Singh came out of a tent carrying a sword and requested that anyone prepared to give his life for his religion come forward.

A young Sikh came forward and disappeared into the tent with the Guru. Then the Guru reappeared alone with his sword covered in blood and asked for another volunteer.

This was repeated another four times until a total of five Sikhs had gone into the tent with him.

Everyone present was very worried until eventually all five emerged from the tent alive, with Guru Gobind Singh, and wearing turbans.

The five became known as the Panj Piare, or 'Beloved Five'.

The men were then baptised into the Khalsa by the Guru. He said some prayers over the five and they were sprinkled with the amrit.

This is how the amrit ceremony came into being and these five Sikhs became the first members of the Khalsa.

