WHO ARE THE SIKHS?
QUICK QUIZ

a) Sikhism is a sect of Islam
b) Sikhism is a sect of Hinduism
c) Sikhism is a blend of Hinduism and Islam
d) Sikhism is an independent religion
CAN YOU GUESS?

Sikhism is the ____ largest religion in the world?

1) Christianity – 2.2 billion
2) Islam – 1.4 billion
3) Hinduism – 900 million
4) Buddhism – 396 million
5) Sikhism – 25 million
6) Judaism – 15 million

Sikhism is the 5th largest religion.
Punjab
in South Asia
SIKHS IN AMERICA
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PIONEERS
SIKH VALUES

ONE GOD: Loves and sustains all humanity

EQUALITY: Respect for all genders, religions, races, etc.

LIVE & EARN HONESTLY

SERVICE TO HUMANITY

SOCIAL JUSTICE
Founded on the teachings of ten Gurus (1469-1708)

The eternal living Guru of the Sikhs is the Guru Granth Sahib (the sacred scripture) which embodies the Gurus’ teachings and guides Sikhs.
IDENTITY:
TO SERVE, PROTECT AND BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE
Making a commitment by joining the Khalsa – community of initiated Sikhs

- Living by a code of conduct
- Having ultimate allegiance to the Sikh way of life
- Maintaining a distinct identity
- Can be done at any time in one’s life
ARTICLES OF FAITH

Uncut Hair (Kesh)  
Spirituality

Iron Bracelet (Kara)  
Good Deeds

Comb (Kanga)  
Cleanliness

Kirpan  
Protection

Underpants (Kachera)  
Self Discipline

Self Discipline
• **99%** of the people wearing a turban in the U.S. are Sikhs

• Means that Sikhs can always be recognized and are duty bound to offer help

• Mandatory religious obligation for Sikhs

• Under no circumstances can the turban be forcibly removed
DASTAAR: SIKH TURBAN STYLES
GURDWARA

- Place of prayer, service and learning
- Everyone is welcome
- Services in America typically held on weekends
Langar is a meal served at every Gurdwara throughout the world.

- Prepared and served by volunteers
- Everyone sits together on the floor to share the food in the spirit of equality.
80+ million people speak Punjabi including many Sikhs living in the U.S.
• Hate Crimes
  • Victims of homicide, assaults, vandalism, etc.

• School Harassment
  • Bias-based bullying, name calling, physical attacks, etc.

• Workplace Discrimination
  • Sikhs denied jobs in law enforcement and numerous corporate settings because of turban and beard.
Everyday Sikhs

Artists

U.S. Army

Basketball Player

Actor & Model

Scientist

Police Officer
Everyday Sikhs

- Politician
- Lawyer
- Farmer
- Pilot
- Doctor
- Filmmaker

The Sikh Coalition
THANK YOU!

www.sikhcoalition.org