|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. I think the story is a kind of legend. Perhaps Nanak got out of the river on the other side, and went off for three days to meditate. Perhaps his followers, later on, exaggerated the story because they really loved his teaching. No one could survive under water for three days. | 1. Maybe this story is symbolic, rather than literally true. Nanak is apart from the world for a time, and comes back with a new vision and purpose. This is rather typical of religious symbolic stories. It’s true – but not to be taken literally. | 1. This story is perfectly possible. God can do anything he wants to, and a miracle story like this shouldn’t be rejected because it is unusual. If Nanak went to the court of God, through the water, what’s the problem? I believe it could happen. |
| 1. The meaning of the story is that when someone really meets with God then they are changed. Nanak was a religious man before this happened, but afterwards he had insight and devotion. God chose Nanak to preach and teach, and showed him the vision to help him. | **What happened to Guru Nanak in the river?** | 1. Nanak wrote that he was like a fish in the water of God. The fish can’t understand everything about the water – but can swim in it. That’s like us and God. Lots about God is puzzling, but we can still “swim” in it. |
| 1. To me this story is similar to the stories of Moses, the Prophet Muhammad or St Paul. It shows how spiritual visions can change the world through one person. It shows how religion can make a positive difference. | 1. I like this story because it’s mysterious. Some people seem to want to make everything logical and tied down, but life’s not like that. Anything can change us. I enjoy wondering about stories like this. Plus 20 million Sikhs can’t be wrong – can they? | 1. This mystical story puts a meeting with God into words. It is symbolic, but that doesn’t mean it’s untrue. Nanak went to the court of God for three days, because it took that kind of encounter to show him that human religions are not big enough to hold the truth about God. God is not Hindu or Muslim! |

Task: Work in pairs

1. Cut up the nine-box grid on this worksheet
2. Rank the eight interpretations of the story 1-8. Which ones make most sense to you? Which ones make least sense?
3. Join up with another pair and **agree an order** between you.
4. Write a brief interpretation of the story in 150 words, saying what the story of Nanak lost in the river means to Sikhs and means to you.