

Topic: Hindus – Home and Mandir (Thinking About God)

Phase: LKS2

Strand: RE – Identifying and Linking

What should I already know?

- That there are many different religions which are practiced all over the world – the biggest ones being Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism.
- That people of all faiths and non, use a wide variety of objects and artefacts to aid them in their worship.
- That religion can have a huge impact on how a person lives their life.

Key Information

Hinduism is the religion of the majority of people in India and Nepal and has over 900 million followers worldwide. In some ways Hinduism is the oldest living religion in the world, or at least elements within it stretch back many thousands of years. It is closely associated conceptually and historically with the other Indian religions such as Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Unlike most other religions, Hinduism has no single founder, no single scripture, and no commonly agreed set of teachings.

At the end of the unit, I will be able to:

- explain how symbols are used in some religions to represent God and explain Hindu beliefs about God in my own words
- reflect on my own beliefs or ideas as well as those of followers of other religions about God identify some characteristics of Hindu gods and goddesses
- make links between the appearance of Hindu gods and the beliefs which underlie them, and show an understanding of the idea that one person has many characteristics
- describe how a shrine is cared for in a Hindu home and understand how God is thought of in Hindu homes and explain the meaning of puja for Hindus
- reflect on the meaning of ‘worship’ and understand its significance for Hindus
- compare and contrast Hindu worship with worship in other religions
- ask and answer questions to further their knowledge of Hinduism



We are MANOR! As learners we will ...

Manners	Develop a respect and understanding for the views and opinions of other people and share ideas about our own ideas and thoughts in a respectful manner. We will celebrate good work, value others’ contributions, and discuss and debate opinions.
Aspiration	Learn by being challenged in a series of well-designed and interesting activities designed to deepen our understanding of the world and broaden our horizons. We will be aspirational in developing knowledge and conceptual understanding through practical activities and discussions.
Nurture	To recognise that we live in a wonderful world made up of many different people and ways of living. We will develop an appreciation and respect for the diverse world and environment in which we live, showing care and compassion for the people and beliefs around us.
Open-Mindedness	We will be open-minded so that we can learn more about others and the way in which they live their lives. We will listen respectfully to each other and not laugh at or make fun of what other people say.
Resilience	Engage confidently with the RE curriculum and learn that anything is possible and failure is not something to fear but to learn from. We will support each other to learn new things and share what we know so that we might help others.

Aum

This is the aum symbol. It is one of the most important symbols in Hinduism. It is the symbol of Brahman, the absolute God. Many Hindu children are taught that there is one god who is in everything. The letters a - u - m represent a sound that many Hindus utter every day. Some people believe that the letters represent a triad:



Earth – Atmosphere - Heaven

Although it is three things, it represents everything. In the same way, Brahman is one God, but is represented in many ways.

Brahman – One Supreme God

Hindus believe that Brahman is the one supreme God. They also believe that this supreme god is represented in many different ways through other gods and goddesses. This may sound confusing, but think of it like this... You are not the same person to everyone you meet: To your parents, you are their child. To your teacher, you are their pupil – one of many. You might also be a brother or a sister, a nephew or a niece, a cousin, or even an aunt or uncle! Even though you are one person, you are also many people. In this way, there are thousands of gods and goddesses (or deities) in Hinduism. Each has different roles, qualities and attributes. This makes Hinduism a polytheistic religion.



Hindu gods and goddesses

Brahma created the world and the human race. His four faces look in every direction – north, south, east and west.



Saraswati and Brahma were husband and wife. She is the goddess of music and the arts. Here, she is playing a veena

Vishnu - The Preserver. He protects the earth from being destroyed. In one of his left hands he holds a mace - a club-like weapon



Lakshmi is married to Vishnu. She is the goddess of beauty, wealth and prosperity. She is shown holding gold.

Shiva is the destroyer. He removes all evil from the world. He is shown as being blue because, according to a legend, he swallowed poison to save the universe.



Shrines

Almost all Hindu shrines have pictures of gods and goddesses. Some may have pictures of Hindu leaders, family or other loved ones. They may also have statues of special deities for the family. Many Hindus will also place flowers in their shrines. Many Hindus will also place offerings of food, water or flowers in their shrines. These are often placed on decorated plates, called thalis. In their homes, Hindus treat their gods and goddesses like special visitors. At their shrines, they may worship their chosen deity by talking to them, presenting offerings of food or water, washing statues of them, respecting them and taking good care of them. Puja – worship – may take place at a shrine.



Mandir

A mandir is a Hindu place of worship. Mandir is a Sanskrit word which describes the mind becoming still, peaceful and joyful. Just like places of worship for other religions, mandirs are not all the same. Some are very plain and simple and others are very elaborate. Once a Hindu enters a mandir to worship, they remove their shoes and then ring a bell to tell the gods that they are here to pray and give thanks. Puja is performed at the Mandir as well as at a shrine in the home.

Vocabulary

title	a word or group of words attached to a person's name to show an honour, rank, or office
name	a word or a combination of words by which a person, place, or thing, a body or class, or any object of thought is designated, called, or known
triad	a group or set of three related people or things.
murti	a general term for an image, statue or idol of a deity or mortal in Indian culture. In Hindu temples, it is a symbolic icon
polytheistic	the belief that there is more than one god
monotheistic	the belief that there is only one god
puja	the Hindu act of worship
Mandir	A mandir is a spiritual place for Hindus.
deity	A divine being – a god or goddess

Quiz

- 1). Where in the world is Hinduism the most popular religion?
- 2). True or false, Hinduism is a monotheistic religion.
- 3). What happens at a shrine?
- 4). What weapon does Vishnu carry?
- 5). Who is Brahman, and why is he important?

