

How would you know that someone was Hindu?



This Religious Education unit follows on from previous studies of Hindu weddings, the Mandir, The festival of Holi, and the main Hindu gods in KS1. This unit will deepen the children's understanding of Hinduism as they will focus on the importance of the Hindu Gods, how and why Hindus worship, their use of their five senses and the puja tray to worship their Gods as well as find out about the stories behind important celebrations and ceremonies.

Key knowledge

- Hindus are the people who follow Hinduism.
- Hinduism is one of the world's major religions. It is the world's 3rd largest religion, with about 1.1 billion followers. It is around 5,000 years old.
- Hindus believe in one supreme God called Brahman. He can be found in everyone and everything, including the other Gods.
- Although many Gods and Goddesses are worshipped in Hinduism, all of these different gods are believed to be a part of the supreme God named 'Brahman.'
- Hindus believe in many stories about their Gods and Goddesses. These stories are associated with different Hindu festivals and celebrations.
- Many Hindus worship at home in their own shrine – this could be anything from a room, an altar, or simply pictures or statues.
- The Hindu building for communal worship is called a Mandir (Hindu temple). The temples are dedicated to different gods and are the focus of religious life.

Personal Reflection

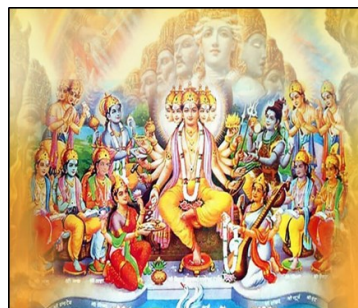
How do people feel when they worship?

Why do people worship?

Which important stories or events have shaped your life?

Why are festivals important?

Which festivals do you celebrate and why?



Key Vocabulary

Brahman— The supreme God who can be found in everything

Atman— A spark of Brahman in every living being

Mandir— A Hindu temple or place of worship

Puja— Puja is Hindu worship which is usually performed every day and can take place either in the home or the Hindu temple

Shrine—A place devoted to the worship of Gods or Goddesses

Dharma— The right way of living

Holi—An ancient festival that celebrates good over evil and the start of Spring

Worship— An act of religious devotion towards a God or Gods

Murti— An image or statue of a God

Kharma—Good and bad actions

Links with other religions

Hinduism is closely related to other Indian religions, including Buddhism and Sikhism. There are similarities between Hinduism and Christianity too, including the use of incense, sacred bread and the similarity between the use of altars in a church and shrines in temples.