

ॐ YEAR 2 SPRING 1 R.E: WHO ARE HINDUS AND HOW DO THEY LIVE?

Overview

Hinduism is the oldest of the world's religions. It is now practised all over the world but originated in South East Asia. It is a mix of different beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back over 4000 years.



Key Vocabulary

mandir	A special place for Hindus to worship.
puja	Act of worship for Hindus .
murtis	Special statues or images of Hindu gods and goddesses.
shrine	A holy place to pray.
Shruti	Hindu holy scriptures which contain the four Vedas .
Smriti	Hindu holy scriptures which contain legends, myths and history.
Vedas	Ancient Hindu text.



Key Vocabulary

Hindu	Someone who follows Hinduism.
Vishnu	Hindu god who protects the universe.
Brahma	Hindu god of creation.
Trimurti	The three aspects of the universal supreme God.
Tridevi	The three great goddesses of Hinduism.
Brahman	Hindus recognise one God, Brahman .



Hindu Gods and Goddesses

Hindus recognise one God, **Brahman**. The gods of Hinduism are different aspects of **Brahman**.

The main three aspects (**Trimurti**) are:

Vishnu, **Brahma** and Shiva

The three great goddesses (**Tridevi**) are:

Saraswati, Lakshmi and Shakti

Hindus can pray to different gods and goddesses for help with different needs.

Special Places for Hindus

Hindus can worship at home or in a **mandir**. In a **mandir**, **Hindus** can perform **puja**.

Some **mandirs** are very tall buildings. **Hindus** believe it brings them closer to heaven.

In a **mandir**, there are **shrines** and lots of **murtis** for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the **murtis**.

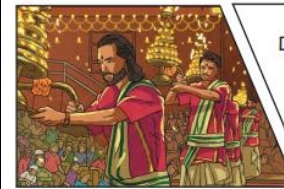


There are holy scriptures in Hinduism. The scriptures support **Hindus** in their life and guide prayer.

Shruti texts are knowledge from gods. **Smriti** were written by **Hindu** spiritual leaders.

Special Festivals

Holi is the 'festival of colours' and marks the beginning of spring with bonfires and lots of singing and dancing. Old rubbish is burnt to mark a fresh start and colour is thrown on people.



Diwali is the 'festival of lights' and is celebrated in late autumn. Diwali celebrates good's victory over evil with lots of lights around homes. Fireworks, presents and new clothes are used to celebrate.

Truth Is Eternal	Dharma	Reincarnation	Moksha
Hindus are encouraged to learn.	Dharma means to do the right thing with good behaviour.	Hindus believe a soul cannot be destroyed, so when a Hindu dies, their soul enters a new living being.	Moksha is the ultimate goal. It happens when a soul stops being reincarnated and is reunited with Brahman .

Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

What is the difference between a god and a goddess?

What is sacred to Hindus?

If you could create a new God or Goddess what attributes for they have?