

Key Vocabulary

Religion	A way of faith and worship.
Beliefs	Trust, faith or confidence in someone or something.
Hinduism	An Indian religion and way of life.
Hindu	Followers of the religion of Hinduism.
Brahman	The one God in Hinduism. He exists in everything.
Brahma	The God of Creation.
Vishnu	The God responsible for preserving and protecting the universe.
Shiva	The God of destruction. His role is to destroy the universe in order to re-create it.
Trimurti	The three aspects of the universal supreme God.
Atman	A person's soul.
Deities	A god or Goddess.
Murtis	Special statues or images of Hindu Gods and Goddesses.
Puja	Act of worship for Hindus.
Mandir	A special place for Hindus to worship. This is often a temple.
Shrine	A holy place to pray.
Vedas	Ancient Hindu text.
Aarti	A Hindu ceremony in which lights with wicks are lit and offered up to one or more deities. They are believed to remove darkness.
Bhajans	Rich musical tradition. A devotional song which is used to help worship.
Divya lamp	A divya lamp is used to show God is there.

Symbol of Hinduism



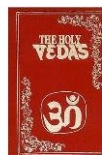
Sacred objects:



Mandir – Hindu temple



Puja tray



Vedas



Murti

Key Knowledge

Hinduism is one of the worlds oldest religions. It is more than 4,000 years old. Most Hindus live in India or other Asian countries, but followers of Hinduism also exist in Britain, Europe, Africa, and America.

Hindus believe that there are three great Gods. These are considered the Trimurti – the three aspects (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) of the universal supreme God.

Hindu worship is called puja, this can be performed at home or in a Hindu temple.

Lots of Hindus have shrines in their homes where they perform puja.

Each shrine contains a puja tray which holds several important items; a small bell, water, a spoon, incense, powder, murti and divya lamp.

Hindus celebrate many special days during the year, but Hoti, Navaratri and Diwali are three of the most famous celebrations.

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

Key figures in Hinduism

(these are people's representations of the key figures as no-one has seen these figures).



Brahma



Vishnu



Shiva