

RELIGIOUS STUDIES · Y3-Y6

# Hinduism

Knowledge Organiser — KS2 RE

## Key vocabulary

1

**Hindu**

A follower of Hinduism. There are around 1.2 billion Hindus worldwide. Hinduism is one of the oldest religions, over 4,000 years old.

2

**Brahman**

The supreme spirit or reality in Hinduism. All gods and goddesses are different forms or aspects of Brahman.

3

**Vedas**

The oldest Hindu sacred texts, written in Sanskrit. There are four main Vedas.

4

**Mandir**

A Hindu temple. A place to worship the deities and connect with Brahman.

5

**Murti**

A statue or image of a deity used in worship to help focus the mind.

6

**Puja**

Hindu worship, often involving offerings of flowers, food, light and prayers.

7

**Karma**

The belief that actions have consequences — good actions bring good results, bad actions bring bad results.



8

**Dharma**

Religious and moral duty. Doing the right thing in your role in life.

**Beliefs and deities**

Core elements of Hindu li

- One supreme reality (Brahman) takes many forms — gods and goddesses
- Brahma — the creator
- Vishnu — the preserver. His avatars include Rama and Krishna.
- Shiva — the destroyer and renewer
- Ganesh — the elephant-headed god, remover of obstacles, bringer of new beginnings
- Lakshmi — goddess of wealth, fortune and prosperity
- Saraswati — goddess of knowledge, music and learning
- Reincarnation — the soul is reborn into a new body after death
- Karma determines what happens in the next life
- The ultimate goal is moksha — release from the cycle of rebirth

**Festivals and special times**

When Hindus celebrate

- Diwali — the Festival of Lights, celebrating the victory of good over evil. Five days, in autumn.
- Holi — the Festival of Colours, celebrating spring with coloured powders and water
- Navaratri — nine nights of celebration honouring the Goddess
- Janmashtami — celebrating the birth of Krishna
- Raksha Bandhan — celebrating the bond between brothers and sisters
- Ganesh Chaturthi — celebrating the birth of Ganesh



- Maha Shivaratri — the great night of Shiva
- Most Hindu festivals follow a lunar calendar so dates change each year.

## Places of worship and symbols

Hindus worship in mandirs (temples), but most worship happens at home shrines. Sacred sites include the river Ganges and Varanasi. Symbols include: Aum (a sacred sound and symbol representing Brahman), the lotus flower (purity), the swastika (an ancient symbol of well-being — used by Hindus for thousands of years before its later misuse), and the bindi (red dot worn on the forehead). Hindus remove shoes before entering a mandir. Many Hindus are vegetarian; cows are considered sacred.

