



Holly Park Learning Organiser

Year 3 - RE



What do Hindus believe?

Big Questions:

BQ1: What is real (ontology)? Understanding what different religions and worldviews teach about what is real and what is not. What exists? What is real? What is the deepest nature of things (ultimate reality)? Is there something eternal and unchanging? Is so, What?

BQ2: Where do we come from (cosmology)? Understanding what different religion and worldviews teach about the origins of the universe, the nature of existence and our place in the world. Where did this 'ultimate reality' come from? How did we get here? Where is here?

Prior Knowledge:

Pupils have learnt what Christians, Muslims and Jews believe to be real and their theories and beliefs on how the world was created.

Key Vocabulary

Brahman	The supreme power & creator
Creation	Bringing something in to existence
Karma	The idea of a person's actions affecting their fate.
Aum	An important symbol and mantra for Hindus
Deity	A god or goddess
Trimurti	Collective noun for the three most important deities.

Linked Visit: Visit to a Hindu Temple

Linked British Values: Mutual Respect & Tolerance

V.A.T

Vocabulary (as above)

Artefacts could include: murtis (small statues), puja trays, lamps, incense, sacred symbols

Texts to include: Stories of creation, Ganesha and the Broken Tusk

Essential Knowledge:

Background: Hinduism originated in India around 4.000 years ago. There are currently (June 2025) around 1.2 billion Hindus in the world.

Beliefs: Brahman (source of the universe) is a spiritual power that is present in everything and every place. Atman (the spark of Brahman) is the human soul. 'Namaste' is the welcome that recognises the spark in other living creatures. Hindus believe in 'karma' that a person's good actions will be rewarded. They believe that there are 4 main goals, Purushartha.

Deities: The three most important deities are known as the Trimurti. Brahma (creator deity), Vishnu (preserver deity) and Shiva (destroyer deity). Lakshmi is another important deity.

Creation: In line with their beliefs around reincarnation, there are a number of creation stories in the Hindu religion. They believe our universe is not the first and will not be the last. The most prominent story features a lotus flower growing out of Vishnu's naval. The 'Aum' symbol represents Brahman and also the first sound in the creation of the universe.

Learning Objectives and Assessment Criteria:

- I can learn and use new vocabulary : Brahman, creation, karma, aum, deity and trimurti.
- I can explain what a Hindu may believe.
- understand some aspects of the idea of creation (Hindu).
- I can explain my understanding
- I can investigate Dharmic beliefs on how the world began.
- I can explore, through discussion, theories on how the world began.
- I can reflect on the different views about the beginning of the universe and explain my own personal ideas.

Key Questions (specific):

What do you think is the most important thing to understand about the world and what is real? Do you believe there is a higher power or something bigger than us that exists? Why or why not? How do you think scientists study and learn about the world to understand what is real? Can you think of things that are real but can't be seen with our eyes? How do we know they exist? Why do you think people have different beliefs about what is real?



Further Detail/Information:

Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as deities in their own right. Brahman, the supreme spirit, basically underpins and permeates everything.

Hindus believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the Atman.

Hindus are comfortable with using images and objects (often called murtis) to portray God. Hindus do not *worship* these but worship Brahman *through* them. Hindus are free to worship God in a variety of colourful forms.

Trimurti

Trimurti, a term meaning "having three forms," refers to the three main aspects of Brahman: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

Ganesha

One of the most easily identifiable Hindu deities due to his large elephant head. He is known as the remover of obstacles and is very popular.

Lakshmi

Lakshmi is one of the most popular deities and is known as the goddess of wealth and purity.

They believe **life is a cycle** of birth, death and rebirth, with our actions in this life, our "**karma**", effecting our future incarnations. Kindness leads to good karma, whilst selfishness leads to bad karma.

The soul may be reincarnated thousands of times.

Hinduism does not have a single holy book, but many ancient texts and scriptures.

- **The Vedas** - a collection of hymns praising the Vedic gods. Veda means 'knowledge'.
- **The Ramayana** - long epic poems about Rama and Sita.
- **The Mahabharata** - which includes the Bhagavad Gita.

The Puranas - a collection of stories about the different incarnations and the lives of saints.

Temple: Hindus worship in a temple called a 'mandir'

Dharma means duty, virtue, truth and morality. It outlines a moral law of right and wrong that Hindus follow in everyday life, behaving correctly and taking their duties seriously. This Hindu belief brings stability to a person's life. Dharma is a universal concept, but outlines a slightly different law for everyone depending on their age, gender and social position. For example, a child's dharma is to work hard at school. The dharma of a parent, is to raise their children and support their family.

Purushartha refers to the four main goals of life within Hinduism. These are:

- **Dharma** - moral values;
- **Artha** - economic values;
- **Kama** - pleasure;
- **Moksha** - liberation.



Suggested Resources:

- BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39/articles/zmpp92p>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zfvkhhbk>

- Oak Academy Resources:

<https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/religious-education>

-primary-ks2-l/units/hinduism-0000/lessons?sid-

aa9bbd=OoMIALO9VI&sm=0&src=3



Suggested Activities:

- Draw/write about the differences in good and bad karma. Imagine what your next life would be like when you are re-incarnated if you have been 'good'.
- Create (using clay, playdough) or draw different elements of the creation story.
- Create a story board, story map, cartoon strip of the creation story.
- Act out the creation story. Take photographs of freeze-frames and create a story board.
- Create puppets to re-tell the creation story.