



Welwyn St Mary's RE knowledge organiser

Year 3: Hinduism Knowledge organiser

Hinduism is the world's oldest major religion and can be traced back to at least 2,500 BC. The oldest holy book is the Rig Veda which was compiled about 1,000 BC

Belief

All Hindus believe there is one supreme God called Brahman. Some Hindus believe there are many gods who are part of the supreme God.

Brahman is a powerful force and has many different roles and sides to his personality:

- Vishnu - the preserver
- Shiva - the destroyer
- Krishna - the god of love

All Hindus believe that God is everywhere. They can worship both at home or in a temple called a mandir. Many Hindus are vegetarian. Hindus who eat meat do not eat beef because the cow is a sacred animal in Hindu culture.

Festivals

Diwali

This is a major festival in honour of Rama. It is known as the festival of lights and houses, shops are decorated with small oil lamps called divas. Hindus celebrate the festival by spring-cleaning their home, wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts, decorating with lights and having firework displays.

Holi

Holi celebrates the start of spring and remembers the gods Radha and Krishna. Traditionally, coloured powders and water are thrown at each other.

Rangoli

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwxaBmqfFAc>

Rangoli patterns are created on the floor near entrances during special occasions and festivals using flower petals, coloured sand, dry flour or coloured rice. The patterns created can be based on nature including petals, flowers and leaves or can be geometric shapes.

Mandir

A Mandir is a Hindu temple. Find out about the Neasdon temple in London

<https://londonmandir.baps.org/>

Puja

Most Hindus have a small shrine in their home where they worship each day. This worship is called Puja.

The main Hindu beliefs include:

The unity of all things in the world. The spirit of Brahman runs through everything; plants, animals and humans.

Ahimsa - the belief that it is wrong to hurt any living thing.

Samsara - the cycle of life and death; that one is reborn until the highest state, Moksha, is achieved through a perfect life.

Karma - a person's behaviour and actions in this life will decide their next life.

Dharma - a person has certain duties to family and God and to live the right way.

Vocabulary:

Vedas - four holy books.

Sanskrit - the ancient language of the holy books

Brahman - The Hindu word for God

Vishnu - the preserver

Shiva - the destroyer

Saraswati - the female energy of Brahman

Lakshmi - the female energy of Vishnu

Parvati - the female energy of Shiva

Om - the sacred sound and symbol for Brahman

Brahmin - the priest class of Hindu society

Mandir - a Hindu temple.

Diwali - the festival of lights

Pilgrimage - a journey, especially a long one, or moral or spiritual significance

Moksha - freedom from the cycle of life and death and unity with God.

River Ganges - a river flowing in India, which Hindus believe is holy