

Hinduism – Key information

Key beliefs

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

Festivals

Holi	This is known as 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	This is known as 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.



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.
Mandir	A special place for Hindus to worship.
Puja	Act of worship for Hindus.
Murtis	A special statue or image of Hindu god and goddesses.
Shrine	A holy place to pray.
Shruti	Hindu holy scriptures which contain the four Vedas.
Smriti	Hindu holy scriptures containing legends, myth and history.
Vedas	Ancient Hindu text.



Key places



Hindus can worship at home or in a Mandir. Mandir's are tall building which Hindu's believe bring them closer to heaven.

In a Mandir there are lots of shrines and murtis for different Gods.

Key Scripture

There are holy scriptures for Hinduism. The scriptures support Hindus in their life and guide prayer. Shruti texts are knowledge from Gods. Smriti were written by Hindu spiritual leaders.

Background

Hinduism is one of the oldest religions, based on a mixture of beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back to over 4000 years. It is now practised all over the world but originated from South-East Asia.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses

Brahman

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

Trimurti

The three main aspects are Vishnu, Brahma and Shiva.

Tridevi

The three great goddesses (Tridevi) are Saraswati, Lakshmi and Shakti.