

Key words

Brahman- God
Brahmin- Hindu priests
Puja- worship
Aum- symbol for God
Samskaras- actions in life that contribute to Karma
Karma- actions have consequences
Monotheism- belief in one God
Polytheism- belief in many Gods
Mandir- Hindu temple
Pilgrimage- a visit to a place that is considered to have special religious significance
Ganges- sacred (special) river in India
Diwali- The festival of lights



Hindu belief in God

Many Hindus believe that there is one God who is worshipped in different forms, an idea which stems from the very earliest Hindu scriptures. This one 'supreme' being is called Brahman. Brahman can appear in many forms.



Year 8 Hinduism



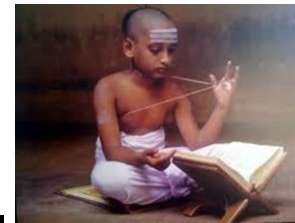
Hindu ceremonies and festivals

Naming ceremony- Like every culture, Hindus pay great respect to the birth of children. In Hinduism, a newborn child represents a rebirth of a former soul. A baby is God's blessing to the family but also his grace to the soul that it is being given a second chance as a human. The baby's name is chosen by the Brahmin based on the stars (horoscopes)

Marriage- In Hinduism, marriage is a sacred act and the ending of asceticism (when you are single and you can focus only on God). Marriage is regarded as a special act before God.

Sacred Thread Ceremony- All boys between the age of 7 and 14 are twice born in Hinduism. the second birth is a spiritual birth where boys are considered old and wise enough to be able to lead important religious services. This occasion is marked by wearing a sacred thread which is worn for the rest of your life.

Holi- Holi is often referred to as the festival of colour. It takes place just before spring to welcome the new season. Its main purpose is to remember when the King's son was saved by the Gods because of his faithfulness to them.



Hindu worship

The religious building the Hindu community worship in is called the Mandir- sometimes referred to as a temple. Inside are many images and Murtis (statues) in honour of God. They all look similar, but their differences simply show the wonderful and beautiful variety of God's character and personality. Offerings of food and flowers are made to God and candles are lit to symbolise life.



Hindu belief in life after death

Death is not seen as the end in Hinduism because of the belief that every human has a soul which leaves your body and comes back as another animal or human. This is called reincarnation. Where the soul goes, is dependent upon actions in life (Karma).

Moksha is when you have managed to store up so much good karma that you don't have to be reborn as anything. You can finally escape the cycle of rebirth and all the pain and struggles that go with it. It means you are totally free to reside with the gods in absolute peace and no more worry or hurt.