

### Key words

Brahman - God

Murtis - statues of gods

Puja- worship tray

Aum- Hindu symbol for God

Karma- actions have consequences

Moksha - escaping cycle of rebirth to be with the gods

Reincarnation - being reborn as a different person or animal

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

Holi - festival of colour



### Hindu belief in God

Many Hindus believe that God can be worshipped in different ways, and that different people may have different ways of understanding God.

They have 3 main gods called the Trimurti's. These are made up of:

- Shiva - the god of war and destruction, in charge of rebirth
- Brahma - the god of creation who is all seeing
- Vishnu - the god of protection who will return to earth during troubled times



### River Ganges

They see the River Ganges as holy and believe it was involved in the creation of the world. They will do a pilgrimage to visit it where they will bathe in the water to remove sin. This also gets them good karma which helps them get a good after life. After death a Hindu wants to be cremated then have their ashes thrown into the River Ganges so they also get a good rebirth.

### 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 variety of God's personality. Offerings of food and flowers are made to God and candles are lit as fire symbolises god. They will also remove their shoes and ring a bell to get god's attention.



## Year 8 Hinduism

**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. The baby's name is chosen by the Priest based on the stars (horoscopes). The Priest will put honey on the baby's tongue in the shape of the Aum and will shave the baby's hair off to represent getting rid of bad spirits or luck from a past life.

**Sacred Thread Ceremony-** All boys between the age of 7 and 14 have a ceremony which marks them becoming a man. They are then allowed to lead important religious services. This occasion is marked by wearing a sacred thread which is worn for the rest of your life. They will touch their mum's feet as a mark of respect and will wear white, as well as having their hair shaved off. Girls do not have this.

**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 from being burned to death in the fire because he prayed to the gods. Now Hindus will throw coloured paint/powder at each other. They will have big bonfires that they walk around or even jump over and children can play tricks on their parents.



### 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. If you have good karma you will get a good rebirth, but bad karma results in a bad rebirth. 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.