

Hinduism

Hinduism is the oldest of the world's religions. It is now practised all over the world but originated in South East Asia. It is a mix of different beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back over 4000 years.

Key Questions

- What do Hindus believe about God?
- Why do Hindus worship so many different Gods?
- What is dharma?
- How can Moksha be achieved?
- What does it mean to be reincarnated?
- How do Hindus show they belong?
- What rites of passage do Hindus celebrate?

Key Vocabulary

Hindu	Someone who follows Hinduism.
Brahman	Hindus recognise one God, Brahman.
Truth is Eternal	Hindus are encouraged to learn and gain as much knowledge as possible.
dharma	Dharma means to do the right thing with good behaviour.
moksha	Moksha is the ultimate goal. It happens when a soul stops being reincarnated and is reunited with Brahman.
reincarnation	Hindus believe a soul cannot be destroyed so when a Hindu dies, their soul enters a new living being.
karma	A Hindu idea for luck - if you have bad karma, you will be reborn as an animal. If you have good karma, you will be reborn as another human.
namakarana	The naming ceremony.
jatakarma	A welcome ceremony for infant Hindus.
upanayana	A sacred thread ceremony, marking the acceptance of a student to a teacher.
vivaha	The Hindu wedding ceremony.
antyeshti	The Hindu death rite of passage.

