






RE Knowledge Organiser

Hinduism

Key Fundamentals




Hindu Beliefs	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindus believe in one true God, Brahman. However Brahman takes the form of many gods and goddesses, which are also called deities. These deities show the different parts of Brahman's personality. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three of the Hindu deities are called the Trimurti; Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Hindus believe that these three show key parts of what Brahman is like. Brahma is the creator, Vishnu is the preserver and Shiva is the destroyer. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindus believe in the concept of Karma, which says that good actions lead to good karma and bad actions lead to bad karma. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many Hindus are vegetarian because they believe that they should not harm any living creature. 	

Hindu Holy Book	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a large number of holy books in Hinduism. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The oldest are called the Vedas and the Upanishads. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bhagavad Gita, Mahabaratha, and the Ramayana are also read by many Hindus and tell them how they should live their lives. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Hindu texts were all originally written in a language called Sanskrit. 	

Hindu Worship	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindu worship is called puja. Some Hindus worship at their holy buildings; a Mandir, however others will have a shrine in their home. During puja, offerings or fruits and sweets are usually given. Shrines contain pictures or statues (murti) of different gods and goddesses.

Key Vocabulary	
Atman	The soul, which is a spark of Brahman living
Brahman	The one true God
Deity	Hindu deities are the Gods and Goddesses who show aspects of the one true God.
Dharma	Hindus believe that everyone should play their part in the world and community.
Karma	What happens as a result of our actions.
Murti	An image or statue of a Hindu God or deity.
Reincarnation	The belief that after death, the soul live on in a new body. Every human has had many past lives.
Samsara	The cycle of birth and death
Soul	The spiritual part of a human. The 'real self'

Key Hindu Festivals	
	Diwali
	Holi
	Navaratri

Symbols	
	<p>The 'om' symbol is the Hindu word and sound for God.</p> <p>Hindus say this at the beginning and end of all prayers.</p>



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Hinduism

Specific Topics



Year 4—Spring Topic	
Why do Hindus want to collect good karma?	
<p>In this topic, we will learn that Hindus believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karma means actions. Whatever we do produces a result. • We all have a soul which is reincarnated when we die, it lives on and moves into a new body. • We collect good and bad karma through our actions which always have consequences. • Hindus are encouraged in their holy books to perform acts of selfless kindness—to do good for others even when no one has asked. This will bring good karma. <p>We will also learn about Ghandi and how he was inspiration to many Hindus to live their lives in a certain way.</p>	<p>Talk about at home</p> <p>What kindness have you shown to those around you today?</p> <p>What was the last act of selfless kindness you showed?</p>



Year 4—Summer Topic	
How does the story of Rama and Site inspire Hindus to follow Dharma?	
<p>We shall start by remembering what we already know about Hinduism, including that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindus believe we all have a soul. • The soul is reincarnated when we die, it lives on and moves into a new body. • We collect good and bad karma through our actions. <p>In this topic, we will learn that Hindus believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dharma is about duty and choosing to do the right thing. • Everyone has their own duty or Dharma to fulfil in life. • Dharma should be taken seriously -like playing a role in a team. • Siblings have a duty to look after each other. • That the story of Rama and Sita shows how important duty is. • Many Hindu stories are about those who follow their duty, no matter what. • Hindu marriage joins two people for life, so they can fulfil their dharma together. 	<p>Talk about at home</p> <p>What is your duty? What should you do to lead a good life?</p> <p>If you have a brother or sister, do you work well with them? What could you do to do this better?</p>





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Hinduism Specific Topics



Year 5—Spring Topic	
How do questions about Brahman and Atman influence Hindu lives?	
<p>We shall start by remembering what we already know about Hinduism, including that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindus believe the soul is reincarnated when we die. Moksha breaks this cycle. There are different pathways to Moksha but we all collect good and bad karma through our actions. Everyone has their own dharma to fulfil in life. <p>In this topic, we will learn that Hindus believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the heart of Hindu tradition is the concept of Brahman - the Supreme Being. Different things about God and their views vary greatly. It is our human nature which limits our understanding. Some Hindus would say Brahman is God, others would describe Brahman differently, as a force or soul of the universe. Brahman is the world and everything in it, a Supreme Being who joins all things together. Deities, like Krishna or Ganesh, reveal aspects of Brahman in human form. There is a spark of Brahman within each person which is called the Atman. 	<p>Talk about at home</p> <p>Hindus believe that all life is sacred. How do you think this helps their decisions about what they should and shouldn't eat?</p>
Year 5—Summer Topic	
What pathways to Moksha are in Hindu scripture?	
<p>We shall start by remembering what we already know about Hinduism, including that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hindus believe the soul is reincarnated when we die. We collect good and bad karma through our actions. Everyone has their own dharma to fulfil in life. Hindu stories are told about those who follow their duty, no matter what. <p>In this topic, we will learn that Hindus believe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moksha is freedom from the cycle of birth-death-rebirth (samsara). Life is a journey towards re-union with God and there are different pathways to achieve this. Hindus read from the Gita for guidance, comfort and advice. Most Hindus follow Bhakti yoga which teaches people that they can reach moksha through loving devotion to God. Many Hindus direct their devotion to Krishna; they believe that if they focus their love on him he will be their route to moksha. 	<p>Talk about at home</p> <p>Which other religions believe that life is a journey towards a reunion or life with God?</p> <p>Why might this idea be comforting for many people?</p> <p>Hindus use yoga as a way of being calm and allowing them to be mindful and think about things in their lives. What do you do to have moments of calm?</p>

