



## Key Vocabulary

mandir

puja

deity

Swastika

om

rangoli

diwali

Brahman

Ganesh

Lakshmi

guru

Indus valley

reincarnation

inner sanctum

prasad

sanskrit

conch shell

lotus flower



# Hinduism

## RE Y5: Key practices of Hinduism



**Main facts** Hinduism is one of the world's major religions. It is the world's 3rd largest religion, with about 1.1 billion followers. It is around 5,000 years old. Hindus are the people who follow Hinduism. It is a very complex religion that is followed by different people in different ways. Many gods are worshipped in Hinduism. All of these different Gods are believed to be a part of the supreme God named 'Brahman.' Hindus believe in karma and reincarnation – that when you die you are reborn as something else. Hinduism does not have one holy book, but several sacred texts.

**Where in the world do Hindus live?** About 15% of the world's population are Hindus. India has the most Hindus by far – about 1 billion Indians are Hindus – this is around 80% of all Indians. However, Nepal has the highest density of Hindus – about 83% of its population are Hindus. There are also lots of Hindus in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Most of the populous countries in the world contain a population of Hindu people.

**How and Where do Hindus worship?** Many Hindus worship at home in their own shrine – this could be anything from a room, an altar, or simply pictures or statues. The Hindu building for communal worship is called a Mandir (Hindu temple). The temples are dedicated to different gods and are the focus of religious life. At Mandirs, Hindu people often recite the names of Gods and Goddesses. They also offer water, fruit and flowers to the Gods.

**Hindu Gods and Goddesses** Hindus believe in one supreme God called Brahman. He can be found in everyone and everything, including the other Gods. Some of the important other Gods include 'Brahma' (the creator), 'Shiva', (the destroyer) and 'Vishnu' (the protector). These three together form the 'Trimurti' (trinity). Other gods include Ganesh (remover of obstacles), Hanuman (the monkey God), Lakshmi (the Goddess of wealth and good fortune, and Vishnu (the God who preserves life and stands up to evil).

## Holy Places Neasden Hindu Mandir



### Links to prior learning and next steps:

Year 4 – Islam

Year 6 – Sikhism

### Links to other subjects:

English – Shaira's Secret

Art – Diwali pots

Music – Indian music