

Prior Learning

3.3 Worship and Sacred Places

4.1 The Journey of Life and Death

4.2 Symbols and Religious Expression

4.4 Religion, family, community, worship, celebration, ways of living.

Religions and worldviews – Hindus

Key Vocabulary

Hindu	Someone who follows the Hindu religion.
Murtis	Images of Gods and Goddesses/ deities in the mandir or home.
Deities	They are many aspects of one God, Brahman. Worshipped by Hindus.
Trimurti Brahman	The most important 3 aspects of God – Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the dissolver.
Dharma	Fulfilling the duties of being a Hindu relating to God, family, community and society. The Eternal Way.
Festivals	A religious celebration.
Ritual	A series of things that is always done in the same special way.
Puja	The word commonly used by Hindus for an act of daily worship
Symbol (Aum symbol)	A sign or mark which makes you think of a bigger idea. Aum – the symbol of Hinduism and the sound of the universe.

- ### Big Questions
- The Aum: What are the meanings of this symbol of the Hindu religion?
 - How can I explain Brahman?
 - What forms does the Hindu view of God take?
 - How do Hindus worship in the home?
 - What are the key themes of the Diwali Hindu festival?
 - What are the key themes of the Holi Hindu festival?
 - What are the similarities and differences between a 'big day' I celebrate and Hindu festivals?

Diwali means 'row of lights' and celebrates the story of Rama and Sita's return home. It also marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year.



Diwali is celebrated by dressing in colourful traditional clothing, lighting the inside and outside of homes with rows of lamps or other lights and fireworks.



Holi is known as the festival of colour when Hindus celebrate the beauty of colour God has put into the world. The festival has three main themes, love, new beginnings and happiness. Some families hold religious ceremonies but for many Holi is more a time for fun.

There are three main Hindu festivals, Diwali, Holi and Dussehra. Diwali is the festival of lights and is celebrated in late October or early November. Holi is the festival which marks the coming of spring. It is held in March or April. There are processions and people light bonfires and people cover each other with coloured waters and flowers. Dussehra is held in September and is the festival that marks Rama's triumph over the evil Ravana.