



Prior Knowledge

What do Hindus believe about God and how does this influence their daily lives?

Hindus believe that **Brahman** is everywhere and there is a part of **Brahman** in everyone.

Brahman takes many forms. The main 3 forms are called the **Trimurti**.

Festival – a time of celebration

Diwali

Diwali is an Autumn festival, sometimes called the festival of **lights**.

During Diwali, Hindus retell the story of **Rama** and **Sita**.

Holi

Holi is celebrated in Spring and is known as the festival of **colours**..

The Hindu place of worship is called a '**Mandir**' (Temple).

New Knowledge

What are the key features of some of the Deities?

Brahma is the **creator** of the world and all creatures. He is usually shown with four heads.

Vishnu is the **preserver** (protector) of the world. He has blue skin and four arms.

Shiva is the **destroyer** of the universe. Shiva destroys the universe in order to re-make it again. Shiva has blue skin, a third eye and carries a trident.



What is the significance of the Aum symbol?

Om (also spelled **Aum**), is the most sacred symbol in Hinduism. In Hinduism, **Om** is like calling God's name towards you. This name is generally said three times, before chanting any prayers. **Om** is usually related to the Hindu God Shiva.



What writings are important to Hindus?

Hinduism does not have a single holy book, but several holy scriptures (holy books or texts.)

The god Brahma, is believed to have created the 4 Vedas.

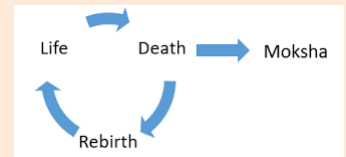
The Vedas are holy books that were passed on orally for centuries.

Rig Veda focuses on deities

Yajur Veda instructions for rituals.

Sama Veda melodies and songs to be sung during rituals.

Atharva Veda hymns and incantations to be said during rituals.



Reincarnation

Many Hindus believe life is a cycle of birth, death and rebirth, with our actions in this life (our **karma**) effecting our future incarnations. Kindness leads to good karma, whilst selfishness leads to bad karma. The soul may be reincarnated thousands of times.

The end of the cycle is called **Moksha**, which can be reached if you live the best life you possibly can. It makes you at one with God and sets you free from having to be reborn on this Earth again.

Atman

Atman refers to a person's 'soul' or 'spirit'. Hindus believe that atman is part of the spirit of Brahma, their ultimate God. Hindus also believe the **atman** is eternal, meaning it never dies.