

## **Prior Knowledge**

**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:

**Brahma** is the **creator** of the world and all creatures.

**Vishnu** is the **preserver** (protector) of the world.

**Shiva** is the **destroyer** of the universe.

## **New Knowledge**

What is significant about the prayer and worship of many Hindus? Hindu worship is primarily individual and personal. It involves making personal offerings to the deity. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god.

Each shrine contains a **puja tray**, which holds several important items including a bell the worshippers ring the bell to let God know that they are ready to worship. Hindu worshippers use powders to mark their foreheads as a sign of respect to the gods.

What are the key features of some of the Deities?

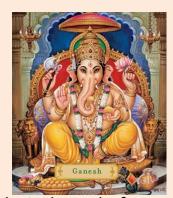
Hindus' female trinity are:

Saraswati, the wife of Brahma

Lakshmi, the wife of Vishnu

Parvati the wife of Shiva.





There is also:

**Ganesha**, also spelled Ganesh, the elephant-headed Hindu god of beginnings, is traditionally worshipped before any major life change.