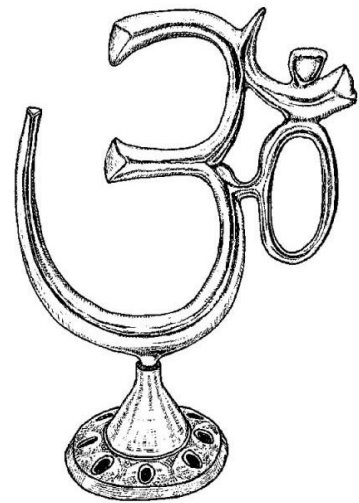


Hindu life

Hindu people aim to be better people. They believe that when they die they are **reincarnated**, that is their spirit returns in a different form. The sort of being they return as depends on how good a life they have led. The idea is to rise from an animal such as a cat, and after many improvements become a human and then eventually be reborn as a priest. Through these different lives they believe that they gain a knowledge and understanding so that they reach a state where they do not need to be incarnated again this is known as **Moksha**. There are four main rules which all Hindus try to follow:

1. To do their duty.
2. To earn money honestly.
3. To live a full life.
4. To try to improve their reincarnation.



Imagine that you are a Hindu and think about the kinds of things you could do to improve your reincarnation.

Draw or write about one of those things below.

Worship at Diwali

Lakshmi is the wife of the god **Vishnu**. She is one of the most popular of the Hindu goddesses and is known as the goddess of **wealth** and **prosperity**. Pictures of her usually show her as having four arms and standing on a lotus flower. There can also be an elephant in the picture pouring water over her or she is shown as sitting massaging Vishnu's feet.

Hindus believe that all who worship **Lakshmi** without being greedy will be blessed with success. It is said that **Lakshmi** is present where hard **work** and **bravery** take place but as soon as these qualities are no longer there neither is she. **Lakshmi** is worshipped at **Diwali** in the hope that Hindus will receive good fortune in the year ahead.



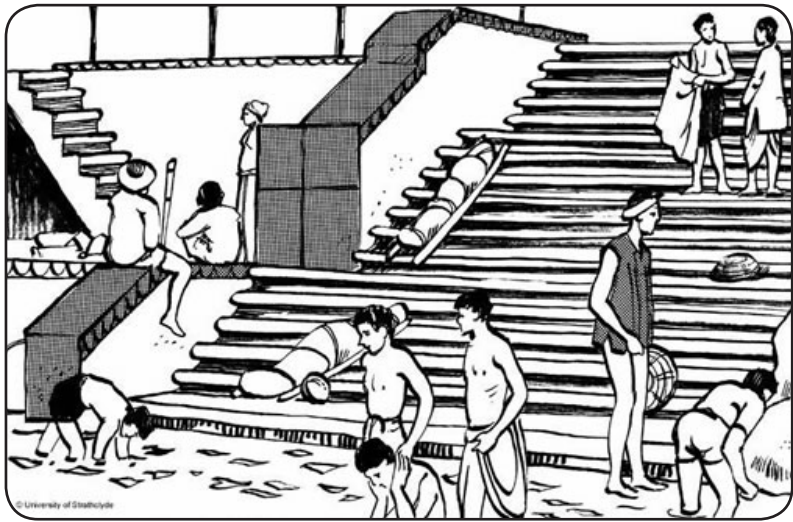
Lakshmi

Look on the Internet to find out more about Hindu worship at Diwali and then complete the statements below.

1. Lakshmi is the goddess of
2. Her husband is called
3. Hindus worship both and
4. Hindus prefer to light rather electric lights.
5. The special lamps used at Diwali are called
6. Hindus place and on the altar at Diwali.
7. Lakshmi is worshipped at Diwali so that the people will receivein the coming year.
8. Diwali celebrations and worship last for days.

How do Hindus celebrate?

Holy days are special days which are celebrated in most religions. Hindus consider everything to be sacred and therefore have many festivals. Festivals are a time for celebration and remembrance. Hindus celebrate in many ways. Some are listed below:



Dancing

**Giving to
charity**

Fireworks

**Giving out
food**

**Visiting the
Temple**

Feasting

**Making
statues of
Gods**

Praying

Fasting

**Visiting
relatives**

Singing

**Wearing new
clothes**

**Decorating
houses**

Circle the ways above in which you celebrate a special day and write a paragraph below explaining what else you do.

.....

.....

.....

.....

The three main faces of Brahman

Brahman is considered by Hindus to be everywhere in all that is created and to be all knowing and all powerful. Hinduism talks about many gods, however they are all aspects of the same spirit, Brahman. The three main faces of Brahman are:

Vishnu - the preserver of creation. He is seen as the most powerful of the three.

Brahma - the creator. He can divide himself into any form of life.

Shiva - the destroyer of all that is old or useless. He is known as the Lord of the Dance.

Look on the Internet or in the photographic big book at pictures of Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu. Draw a picture of one of them below.



Shiva dancing

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I have chosen to draw

Interactive Whiteboard Wall Charts

Hinduism • Click on a title to begin.

Hindu Worship

Hindu Gods

Hindu Festivals

Diwali

Inside the Mandir

Hindu Symbols and Artefacts

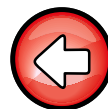
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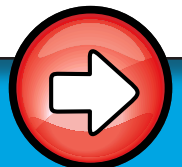
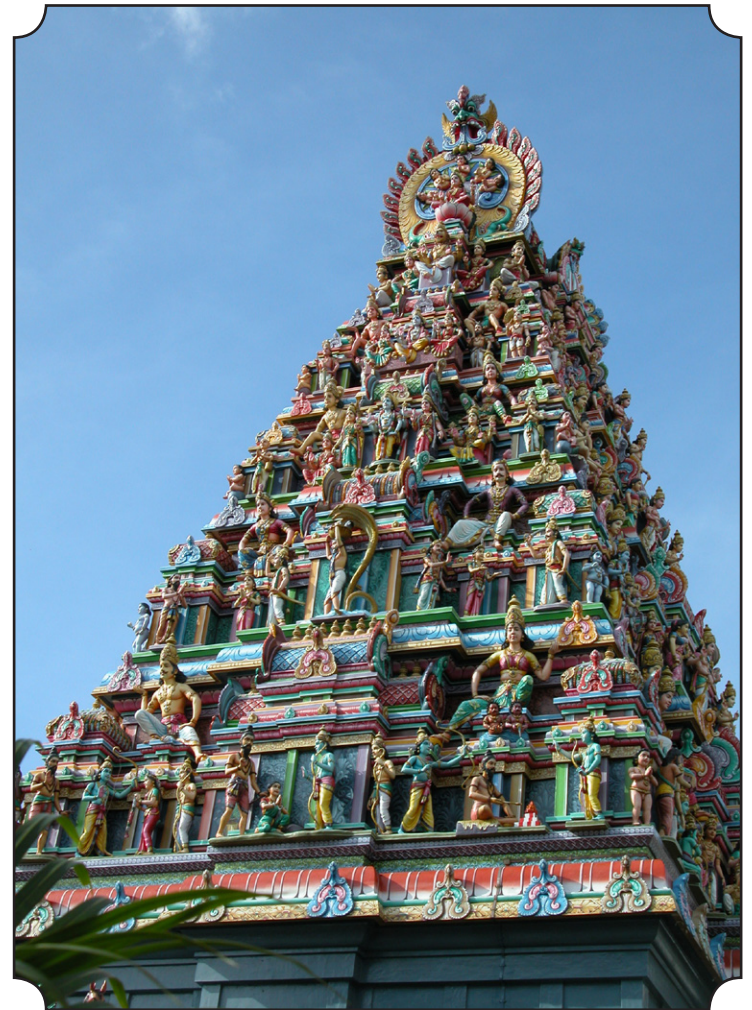


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Hindu Festivals

Holi

Holi celebrates new life and the coming of spring. On the second day people are showered with colourful powders.



Janmashtami

Janmashtami celebrates the birth of Krishna. Krishna is believed to be the human form of the God Vishnu.



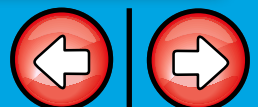
Henna or Mehendi tattoos are popular during festivals.

Diwali

Diwali, or Divali as it is also known, is the Festival of Light. It was originally celebrated after the harvest and lasts for five days.

Baisakhi

Baisakhi marks the start of the Hindu Solar New Year. It is when the harvest is ready to cut. During Baisakhi Hindus visit the famous Ganges river and bathe there.



Hindu Worship



The Shrine

This can be a room or a small altar with pictures of statues of the deity.



Arti Ceremony

Arti is performed by waving the tray of oil lamps in front of the god.



Murti

This is the sacred statue of a god or goddess.



Bell

A bell is rung to wake the deity and announce that worship is to take place.



Offerings

These are made to the deity.



Lamp

A lamp shows the moving from darkness to light in order to find God.



Prashad

This is the food or drink that is offered to the god. It is then offered to the people worshipping.



Incense

This is burnt so that the scent spreads everywhere reminding Hindus that God is everywhere.





Light is seen as knowledge and therefore a contrast to darkness and ignorance.



Puja is a ritual where offerings are made to a god or goddess.



The three main faces of Brahman - Brahma, Shiva and Vishnu.