





# Hinduism

- 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.
- 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. Mandirs are Hindu worship buildings.

Key facts		
Where and how do Hindus worship? Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Many Hindus worship at home in their own shrine— this could be anything from a room, an altar or simply pictures or statues.</li> <li>□ The Hindu temple is called a Mandir. At Mandirs, Hindu people often recite the names of Gods and Goddesses. They also offer water, fruit and flowers to the Gods. This is known as <b>puja</b>.</li> </ul>	
Who do they believe in?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Hindus believe in one supreme God called Brahman. He can be found in everyone and everything, including the other Gods.</li> <li>□ Some of the important other Gods include 'Brahma' (the creator), 'Shiva', (the destroyer) and 'Vishnu' (the protector). These three form the 'Trimurti' (trinity).</li> </ul>	
Who is Lakshmi?	<p>Lakshmi is the goddess of money and good luck in Hinduism. She is the wife of the Hindu god Vishnu. Most Hindus pray to her on Diwali, which is a festival in India.</p> <p>Lakshmi has four arms, fair skin and sits on a lotus flower and is normally surrounded by elephants. She is covered in jewellery.</p>	
What is Om or Aum?	Om or Aum is a sacred symbol that represents Brahman.	

## Key Vocabulary

prayer	the act or ceremony of speaking to God or a god, especially. to express thanks or to ask for help,
worship	to show respect and love for God or for a god especially by praying, having religious services,
sacred	Something that is sacred is believed to be holy and to have a special connection with God.
puja	An act of worship for Hindus
shrine	In Hinduism, a shrine is a place where gods or goddesses are worshipped.
Krishna	Krishna is a major Hindu god and considered the eighth incarnation of Vishnu
Ganesha	Hindu god in a human form but with the head of an elephant.