

ॐ Hinduism: Knowledge Organiser. ॐ

Brahman is the Hindu God.

Trimurti = 3 parts of Brahman

BRAHMA = creator
VISHNU = Preserver
SHIVA = Destroyer

Hindus worship at a MANDIR.

There is usually a large gate GOPURAM

And the main shrine is called the GARBA GRIHA

Hindu worship is called PUJA

They use a MURTI (image/statue) to help them focus

The murti are placed in a SHRINE - a shrine has a main statue of the deity and space for offerings to be made and incense burned. People can have shrines in their homes too!

They also have symbols to represent their beliefs. The aum and the swastika are 2 main symbols.



Hindus have Murti & symbols as their religion is so old many thoughts and concepts were not written down. Many of their scriptures are re-told in story form to help people remember them to be able to pass them on.

As part of their worship, scriptures will be read from the SRUTI - these scriptures were 'heard and seen', or the SMRITI - these scriptures were 'remembered'.

SAMSARA

This means FLOW

- it's the cycle of birth, death, rebirth (reincarnation).

Hindus believe we have a soul ATMAN

It is the soul that continues to be re-born into many lives
When the individual discovers their true nature, they reach MOKSHA.

MOKSHA means liberation or freedom.

When they reach Moksha they are reunited with Brahman.

KARMA

This refers to the CONSEQUENCES of the way we live.

You can either create GOOD or BAD karma.

In order for them to experience a favourable re-birth,
Hindus try to live in ways that will create good karma.
They try to develop virtues - good characteristics, in order to help themselves and others in the world around them.

4 Stages of life

Student stage: Brahmacharya. At about the age of 8 a boy will go through a special ceremony called UPANAYANA. He will receive 3 threads representing his 3 debts to God, teachers and parents. This is when he starts his formal religious education. A fire is lit to witness his vows. He needs to learn discipline & respect.

Householder stage: Marriage means taking on responsibility. People try to earn wealth in order to take care of their family. They must worship daily and concentrate on creating good karma.

Retirement stage: Family responsibilities are coming to an end, the person must 'retire' to the 'forest' and focus on religion and spiritual maturity.

Sannyasa stage: They choose to be totally devoted to God and put all their effort into achieving moksha by cutting ties with everything other than God.

ARATI

Worshippers will greet the deity and make offerings to it by moving them in a clockwise circular motion.

A priest brings a lamp and worshippers draw their hands and forehead over the lit lamp. They believe the lamp is filled with the love and energy of the deity and as they pass their hands and forehead over the flame, they take these blessings for themselves.

On the arati tray there are 5 items to represent Space, fire, water, air and earth - this symbolises that the whole of creation is offered to the deity.