

RE Knowledge Organiser

Key Question

What do Hindus believe that God is like?

Topic Overview

- To think about what the word 'Hinduism' means.
- To consider how the story of Svetaketu illustrates the idea of Brahman.
- To explore the different Hindu deities and their distinctive features.
- To think about the cycles of life, death and rebirth.
- To explore the Hindu deities in the context of the idea of the cycle of life.
- To look at how Hindus choose a deity to worship at a shrine in their home.
- To explore the story of Rama and Sita that is celebrated at Diwali.
- To consider the Hindu idea that all living beings possess a 'spark' of Brahman.

Learning Outcomes

- To identify some Hindu deities and say how they help Hindus describe God.
- Make clear links between some stories (e.g. Svetaketu, Ganesh, Diwali) and what Hindus believe about God.
- Make simple links between beliefs about God and how Hindus live (e.g. choosing a deity and worshipping a home shrine)
- Identify some different ways in which Hindus worship
- Make links between the Hindu idea of everyone having a 'spark' of God in them and ideas about the value of people in the world today.

Key Vocabulary

Sanatan Dharma	People within the tradition itself often call Hinduism 'Sanatan Dharma', which means 'Eternal Way' and describes a complete way of life rather than a set of beliefs.
Brahman	Brahman represents the concept of God in Hindu Dharma
Atman	The atman refers to the 'eternal self', the essence of a single being. When the body dies, the atman moves into a new body in the process known as samsara
Karma	Karma refers to the sum of a Hindu's actions, which will determine his or her future existences.
Samsara	Samsara describes the cycle of birth, death and rebirth (reincarnation)
Moksha	Moksha describes the ultimate goal of all Hindus: liberation from the cycle of samsara and the constant pain of rebirth.

