

5.5 How do Hindus make sense of the world?

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Key Vocabulary	
Word	Definition
Dharma	the duty a Hindu should perform in their life
Ahimsa	principle of non-violence
Karma	'Intentional action' – good or bad actions in life leading to positive or negative merit. This will determine in which form you will be reincarnated.
Murti	an image or statue of a deity
Samsara	the cycle of death and rebirth that all living things are part of
Atman	the eternal soul
Moksha	leaving samsara and becoming one with, or living in the presence of, Brahma

Hindu Beliefs about god

Hinduism is recognised as a monotheistic religion – the belief in only one god – Brahman.

While there are thousands of other gods and goddesses worshipped by Hindus, they each represent one of the three attributes of Brahman as:

- The Creator
- The Preserver
- The Destroyer

These 3 attributes also reflect the cycle of birth, life and death which is central to Hindu beliefs.

Along with these 3 attributes, Brahman has 9 qualities which are: Peacefulness, self-control, austerity, purity, tolerance, honesty, knowledge, wisdom and religiousness.



Key Questions to ask yourself

- How might it affect how a Hindu treats animals?
- How do the different aspects of Brahman enable Hindus to make sense of the world?
- How does Diwali help Hindus to understand the world?

Diwali

Diwali is a celebration that is also known as the Festival of Lights. It marks the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During Diwali, people decorate their homes with little lamps or lights called *diyas* and colorful decorations called *rangoli*. Families clean their homes, wear new clothes, and gather to enjoy special sweets and food. Fireworks and sparklers light up the night, and people give gifts to show their love.

Hindus celebrate the story of Prince Rama returning to his kingdom after defeating a powerful evil king. The people were so happy that they lit lamps to welcome him home. Diwali is about celebrating happiness, kindness, and hope, and it's a time when people wish for peace and prosperity in the year ahead.

Hindu gods and goddesses

Name	Brahma	Vishnu	Saraswati	Shiva	Lakshmi
Picture					
Facts	Hindus believe that this god is the creator of the universe. He has 4 heads and grew inside a lotus.	He is the Hindu god that preserves the universe and people. Hindus believe he saved his followers by appearing to them in other forms.	She is the Hindu goddess of knowledge, music, arts, wisdom and learning.	He is the Hindu god of death and destruction. Hindus believe he is the source of good and evil and is part of the main trinity of Hindu gods.	This Hindu god is the wife of Vishnu and travels on a lotus flower. She is the Hindu goddess of wealth and success.