

Religious Education



Key Vocabulary

Veda – the sacred scriptures.

Bhagvad Gita – the holy book.

Diwali – the festival of lights.

Karma – the energy the Atman creates in each life.

Avatar – the form in which a god appears on Earth.

Om – the sacred sound and symbol for Brahman.

Pilgrimage – a journey, especially a long one, with moral or spiritual significance

River Ganges – a river flowing in India, which Hindus believe is holy.

Religion: Hinduism Followers: Hindus

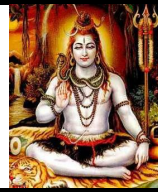
Hindu Beliefs



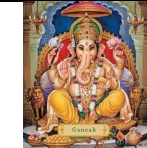
Brahman is the Hindu God. He has many different roles and sides to his personality



Vishnu – the preserver



Shiva – the destroyer



Ganesh – the god of wisdom and good fortune

Hindu Symbols



Om – a sacred sound and symbol for Brahman.

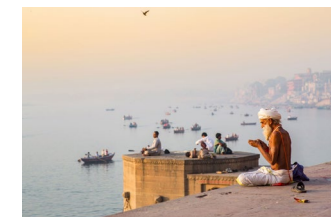


The **lotus flower** is a symbol of beauty, rebirth and enlightenment.



When Hindus greet each other they put their hands together and say '**Namaste**'.

Hindus believe the river Ganges, in India, is holy.



DIWALI

A yearly **celebration**, where the importance of new beginnings, food, decorations and preparations are made to encourage **Lakshmi** to visit and bring wealth and good fortune for the year ahead. It is known as the **festival of lights** and houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called **diyas**. Hindus celebrate the festival by spring-cleaning their home, wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts, decorating.



PUJA



RANGOLI

Rangoli patterns are created on the floor near entrances during special occasions and festivals. They are created using flower petals, coloured sand, dry flour or coloured rice. The patterns created can be based on nature including petals, flowers and leaves or can be geometric shapes.

Most Hindus have a small shrine in their home where they worship daily. This worship is called Puja. The shrine will contain images of their gods and also have a puja tray which holds different items: **bell, kum kum powder, water container, prashad (offerings), incense holder and a diva lamp.**