

Hinduism

Hinduism is the world's oldest religion, according to many scholars, with roots and customs dating back more than 4,000 years. Today, with more than 1 billion followers, Hinduism is the third-largest religion worldwide, after Christianity and Islam. Roughly 94 percent of the world's Hindus live in India.

Hindus worship a number of different gods and minor deities, honor a range of symbols, respect several different holy books and celebrate with a wide variety of traditions, holidays and customs.



Hinduism

Religious Education Organiser

Key Vocabulary

Hindu	Someone who follows Hinduism
Brahma	Hindu God of creation
Tridevi	The three great goddesses of Hinduism.
Mandir	A special place for Hindus to worship.
Puja	Act of worship for Hindus
Murtis	Special statues or images of Hindu gods and goddesses
Shrine	A holy place to pray.
Vedas	Ancient Hindu text.
Smriti	Hindu holy scriptures which contain legends, myths and history.

Key Beliefs

Hindus have many beliefs but here are a few:

- a belief in many gods, which are seen as manifestations of a single unity. These deities are linked to universal and natural processes.
- a preference for one deity while not excluding or disbelieving others
- a belief in the universal law of cause and effect (karma) and reincarnation
- a belief in the possibility of freedom and release (moksha) by which the endless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth (samsara) can be resolved.

Hindu Gods and Goddess'

