

Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Atman:	part of Brahman – in everyone
Brahma:	creator
Brahman:	the Supreme Power - God
deity	god or goddess
murti	an image or statue of a god
Shiva:	destroyer
Vishnu:	preserver



Our Focus

In this unit we will look at the Hindu beliefs in God and how these beliefs are formed into images and **murtis**. We will consider the stories and symbols and how these beliefs impact our daily life.

The Big Question:

How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?

Key Knowledge

Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called **Brahman**. **Brahman** takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as **deities** in their own right. **Brahman**, the supreme spirit, basically underpins and permeates everything. Hindus believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the **Atman**. Hindus are comfortable with using images and objects (often called **murtis**) to portray God. Hindus do not worship these but worship Brahman through them. Hindus are free to worship God in a variety of colourful forms.

Trimurti: "having three forms," refers to the three main aspects of Brahman: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva

Ganesh: one of the most easily identifiable Hindu deities due to his large elephant head. He is known as the remover of obstacles and is very popular.

Lakshmi: one of the most popular deities and is known as the goddess of wealth and purity.

History

- Hindu beliefs about God have developed over a long period of time.
- Brahman is the name of God.
- Brahman is represented in many deities each with different roles or responsibilities.



Hinduism

Making Links

- Many Hindus use statues or images (**murtis**) of their gods and goddesses.



- The statues and images of the gods and goddesses often contain lots of symbols.

- Many Hindus worship at home using a home shrine or **mandir**.
- Many Hindus worship in the temple – the way the **murtis** are respected and ‘woken up’ each morning.

Offerings of food are given in the temple and distributed around the community to people who need it.



Personal Connections

- What are my thoughts on the existence of God?
- What obstacles would I like removed?
- What symbols are there in school or home?
- Why are symbols useful?



Life as a Hindu



- Hindus can choose which deity to worship and have a home shrine so they can worship each day.
- The choice of deity often has resonance within the family.

To think about at home

- What special things do we have in our house and where do we keep them?
- What might we want to celebrate together as a family?

