

HINDUISM

Key Vocabulary

Hindu	Someone who follows Hinduism.
Vishnu	Hindu god who protects the universe.
Brahma	Hindu god of creation.
Trimurti	The three aspects of the universal supreme God.
Tridevi	The three great goddesses of Hinduism.
Brahman	Hindus recognise one God, Brahman .

Hinduism is the oldest of the world's religions. It is now practised all over the world but originated in South East Asia. It is a mix of different beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back over 4000 years.



Special Places for Hindus

Hindus can worship at home or in a **mandir**. In a **mandir**, **Hindus** can perform **puja**.

Some **mandirs** are very tall buildings. **Hindus** believe it brings them closer to heaven.

In a **mandir**, there are **shrines** and lots of **murtis** for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the **murtis**.

Special Festivals

Holi is the 'festival of colours' and marks the beginning of spring with bonfires and lots of singing and dancing. Old rubbish is burnt to mark a fresh start and colour is thrown on people.



Diwali is the 'festival of lights' and is celebrated in late autumn. Diwali celebrates good's victory over evil with lots of lights around homes. Fireworks, presents and new clothes are used to celebrate.

There are holy scriptures in Hinduism. The scriptures support **Hindus** in their life and guide prayer.

Shruti texts are knowledge from gods. **Smriti** were written by **Hindu** spiritual leaders.

