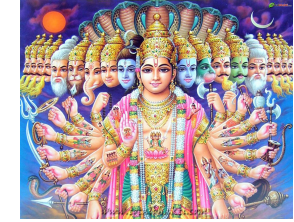




Unit L2.7: What do Hindus believe that God is like?

Brahman means God. Hindus believe in one god but believe that are many sides to this god. They believe that Brahman is invisible but in everything.



Learning outcomes:

- Identify some Hindu deities and say how they help Hindus describe God
 - Make clear links between some stories (e.g. Svetaketu, Ganesh, Diwali) and what Hindus believe about God
 - Offer informed suggestions about what Hindu murtis express about God
- Make simple links between beliefs about God and how Hindus live (e.g. choosing a deity and worshipping at a Home Shrine; celebrating Diwali)
 - Identify some different ways in which Hindus worship
- Raise questions and suggest answers about whether it is good to think about the cycle of create/preserve/destroy in the world today
 - Make links between the Hindu idea of everyone having a 'spark' of God in them and ideas about the value of people in the world today, giving good reasons for their ideas

Key word	Definition
Brahman	The Ultimate Reality - God.
Aum	A symbol to represent God. Some Hindus believe it was the first sound and created the universe.
atman	A 'spark' of Brahman. Hindus believe every living thing has this.
deity	Gods and goddesses that represent the qualities of Brahman.
puja	Worship ritual.
Diwali	Hindu festival of light held October to November.
murti	A statue or image of a deity.
trimurti	Three of the most important aspects of Brahman - Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

The Trimurti

Brahma - creator

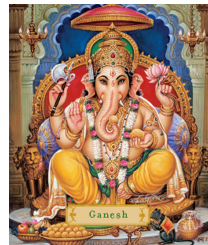
Vishnu - preserver

Shiva - destroyer



Rama and Sita - the story of Diwali

Lakshmi - wealth and fortune



Ganesh - remover of obstacles

Hindus believe in a cycle of life. The trimurti represents this because they show how everything can be created, protected and eventually destroyed.

