

Unit 2.8

What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?



Prior knowledge: Hindus believe in one God, the ultimate reality, Brahman. Hindus believe in a cycle of life, death and rebirth.

Key word	Definition
Arti/aarti	Moving lighted candles in a circle to show respect by the shrine.
Atman	Inner spirit or soul.
Aum	Sacred sound and spiritual symbol, first sound of the universe.
Bhajan	Devotional song.
Bhagavad Gita	A Hindu holy book.
Deity	A form of god or goddess.
Dharma	Duty to act in the right way as god teaches.
Mandir	The temple where Hindus go to worship.
Murtis	A statue or picture of a deity.
Puja	Worship ritual.
Sanatan Dharma	Means 'eternal way'. This word is used by some instead of Hinduism, to explain a Hindu way of life.
Shrine	A place where Hindu deities are worshipped.



Puja



Arti



Shri Venkateswara Mandir in Birmingham.

Learning outcomes:

- Identify the terms dharma, Sanatan Dharma and Hindus, and say what they mean.
- Make links between Hindu practices and the idea that Hinduism is a whole 'way of life' (Dharma).
- Describe how Hindus show their faith within their families in Britain today (e.g. home puja).
- Describe how Hindus show their faith within their faith communities in Britain today (e.g. arti and bhajans at the mandir; in festivals such as Diwali).
- Identify different ways in which Hindus show their faith (e.g. between different communities in Britain, or between Britain and parts of India).
- Raise questions and suggest answers about what is good about being a Hindu in Britain today, and whether taking part in family and community rituals is a good thing for individuals and society, giving good reasons for their ideas.