

## Key Question

How do Hindus show their commitment to God?



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## Key Understanding

- Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It began about 5000 years ago and was linked to the people who lived near to the Indus River in about 2500 BC.
- Hinduism has grown to be the world's third largest religion, after Christianity and Islam. All Hindus believe that life, death and rebirth are a continuous process that we are all part of.
- Many gods are worshipped in Hinduism.
- In Hinduism there is only one God but many ways to describe God. God is called Brahman.
- Many gods and goddesses show Brahman's many qualities.
- Reincarnation: Hindus believe a soul cannot be destroyed, so when a Hindu dies, their soul enters a new living being.
- Moksha: For Hindus, Moksha is the ultimate goal. It happens when a soul stops being reincarnated and is reunited with Brahman.

## Key Vocabulary

Deities	Gods and goddesses that show the different qualities that God has
Murtis	special statues or images of Hindu gods and goddesses.
Mandir	A special place ( temple) for Hindus to worship
Shrine	A holy place to pray
Puja	An act of worship performed by Hindus
Gayatri Mantra	A sung prayer that is chanted
Vedas	Ancient holy texts used for guidance by Hindus
Trimurti	The three parts of the universal one God
Aum	The most widely used symbol in Hinduism that represents god

