

Key Question

How do Hindus show their commitment to god?

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.

Hinduism is **monotheistic**: there is only one God (Brahman) but many ways to describe it. Brahman is expressed and made known to humans through **many deities** which represent the different attributes and forms of Brahman.

Hindus believe that life, death and rebirth are a **continuous process** that we are all part of.

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.

Hindus believe in **four goals of human life**: karma, moksha, dharma and artha.



The 'aum' symbol

Key People

Brahman

God is called 'Brahman' and is neither male nor female but is a supreme, universal being that is eternal and unchanging. Because God is so perfect and so complex, words are not enough to describe 'It' and because God has so many qualities people see 'It' differently.

Key Vocabulary

Deities	Gods and goddesses that show the different qualities of Brahman
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
Kharma	A Hindu goal of human life: to try to be pure and do good things
Moshka	A Hindu goal of human life: to reach god through reincarnation
Dharma	A Hindu goal of human life: to act with honour and virtue
Artha	A Hindu goal of human life: to gain wealth by honest and lawful means
Trimurti	The three parts of the universal one God
Aum	The most widely used symbol in Hinduism that represents god

Key Religious Festivals

Holi	Festival celebrating the arrival of spring and blossoming of love and new life.
Diwali	Festival of light & harvest.
Kumbh Mela	Bathing in sacred rivers to rid future of sin and evil.