

Key Vocabulary	
Hindu	A follower of Hinduism, one of the major world religions.
Deity	A god.
Brahman	The one ultimate God in Hinduism. The ultimate reality and supreme being talked about in the Hindu scriptures.
Atman	Hindu word for a person's soul/ spirit.
Dharma	The duties a Hindu should follow in life.
Karma	Actions, and the consequences of actions.
Moksha	Escape from the cycle of reincarnation.
Samsara	The cycle of life, death and rebirth also known as reincarnation.
Mahābhārata	The longest poem ever written. This is a sacred writing Hindus treasure.



The symbol of aum is the most important and special symbol in Hinduism.

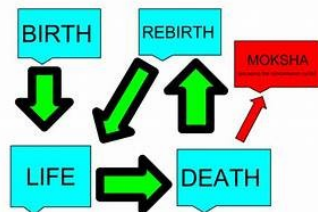
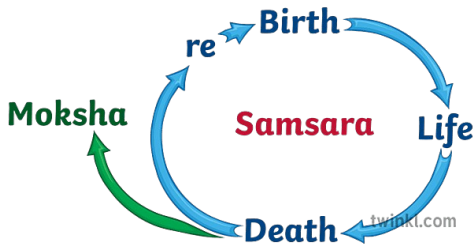
For Hindus, it represents 'Brahman' from where the whole universe came.



Karma relates to cause and effect. It relates to the results of a person's actions. Good actions bring better consequences and bad actions lead to negative consequences. It determines whether your next life is the same, better or worse.



Hindus worship in a temple called a mandir. People can visit the mandir at any time to pray and participate in the bhajans (religious songs).



Hindus also worship at home and often have a special shrine to particular gods.



Five daily duties (Pancha Maha Yagnas)

1. Worship God at the home shrine or at the mandir using ritual, prayer or meditations.
2. Study the scriptures.
3. Contemplate teachings of the wise and the actions and words of elders and ancestors.
4. Provide food for humans or animals who are in need.
5. Serve guests with love, respect and reverence.

Hinduism is over 4000 years old, making it one of the world's oldest religions.

It is made up of a variety of different religious beliefs and practices.

It originated near the Indus river in India.