

To understand how Hindus worship

The Puja ceremony

Hindu worship of gods and goddesses is called Puja. Puja is usually performed every day and can take place either in the home or the Hindu temple, which is called a Mandir.

A Hindu home usually has a shrine, which is a special place in a Hindu home where they can go to pray. The shrine has pictures of the gods and goddesses the family worship. The size of a home shrine differs greatly. In a large house, the family may have a 'shrine room'. In most homes, the shrine is likely to be a special kitchen cupboard, a shelf or the top of a low cupboard or chest of drawers - somewhere where it is clean.

During worship, Hindus use many items, which are kept on a Puja tray. The items include a bell, a pot of water, a diva lamp, an incense burner, a pot of kum kum powder, and a spoon. Puja involves offering light, incense, flowers and food to the deities (the gods). During Puja the worshippers will chant mantras, which are prayers and verses from the Hindu holy books.

Answer the following questions about this passage in full sentences!

- 1) What is the Hindu worship of gods and goddesses called?
- 2) How often is this performed?
- 3) In which two places can this worship take place?
- 4) What is the special name for a Hindu temple?
- 5) What does a Hindu home usually have?
- 6) Why is this a special place for Hindus?
- 7) What does a shrine have on it?
- 8) In most homes, where is the shrine likely to be?
- 9) During worship, what are the items Hindus use kept on?
- 10) What items are kept on this tray?
- 11) What does Puja involve offering to the gods?
- 12) What do Hindus chant during worship, and what are these?

To understand how Hindus worship

Write out the following passage. Fill in the gaps by using the words underneath - make sure the word makes sense in the gap!

The Puja ceremony

Hindu worship of gods and goddesses is called _____. Puja is usually performed every _____ and can take place either in the home or the Hindu _____, which is called a Mandir.

A Hindu home usually has a shrine, which is a _____ place in a Hindu home where they can go to pray. The shrine has _____ of the gods and goddesses that the family worship. The _____ of a home shrine differs a lot. In a large house, the family may have a 'shrine room'. In most homes, the shrine is likely to be a special _____ cupboard, a _____ or the top of a low cupboard or chest of drawers - somewhere where it is clean.

During worship, Hindus use many items, which are kept on a Puja tray. The items include a _____, a pot of water, a _____ lamp, an incense burner, a pot of kum kum powder, and a spoon. Puja involves offering light, incense, _____ and food to the deities (the gods). During Puja the worshippers will _____ mantras, which are prayers and verses from the Hindu holy books.

Words to use:

temple

size

Puja

diva

shelf

kitchen

day

pictures

chant

flowers

special

bell

To understand how Hindus worship

The Puja tray

- 1) Cut out the picture of the Puja tray, and stick in your book.
- 2) Choose the right name for each object on the Puja tray from this list and label the picture (use a ruler to draw your lines!)

kum kum powder	diva lamp	bell
pot of water	incense burner	spoon

- 3) Underneath, write a definition of what each object is used for, by reading through the following information.

*Set your work out like this:

Bell: (then write why it is used)

Kum kum powder: (then write why it is used) etc.

During Puja, Hindus will ring the bell to let God know that they have come to worship and to invite him into the home. Hindus will light the diva lamp and move it around in circles to bring light to the shrine. This light is a symbol of God's presence. Hindus will light an incense stick and move it around the shrine in circles. This cleans the air and brings a lovely smell to the shrine for the gods. Hindus will offer water to the gods on a spoon. This is to show respect to the gods. Hindus will make a paste out of the red kum kum powder. They use this to make a mark on the forehead of the images of the gods. This is again a sign of respect and devotion to the gods. They will also make a mark on their own forehead as a sign that God has blessed them.

To understand how Hindus worship

The Puja tray

- 1) Cut out the picture of the Puja tray, and stick in your book.
- 2) Choose the right name for each object on the Puja tray from this list and label the picture (use a ruler to draw your lines!)

kum kum powder	diva lamp	bell
pot of water	incense burner	spoon

- 3) Underneath, write about what each object is used for, by choosing the right information to go with each object.

*Set your work out like this:

Bell: (then write why it is used)

Kum kum powder: (then write why it is used) etc.

The bell is rung to let God know that they have come to worship and to invite him into the home.

The diva lamp is lit and moved around in circles to bring light to the shrine. This light is a symbol of God's presence.

The incense stick is lit and moved around the shrine in circles. This cleans the air and brings a lovely smell to the shrine for the gods.

Water is offered to the gods on a spoon. This is to show respect to the gods.

A paste is made out of the red kum kum powder. Hindus use this to make a mark on the forehead of the pictures of the gods. This is again a sign of respect and devotion to the gods. They will also make a mark on their own forehead as a sign that God has blessed them.