

Date: 29/02/08

The Origins of Hinduism



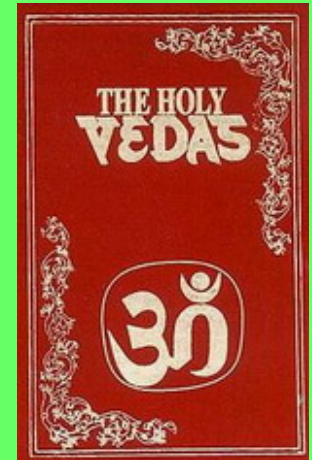
Learning outcomes

To explore: the origins of the Hindu religion.

To know: Key facts about Hinduism.

Starter

Brainstorm what you
already know about
Hinduism...



An Introduction to Hinduism...

[YouTube - The Story of Hinduism](#)

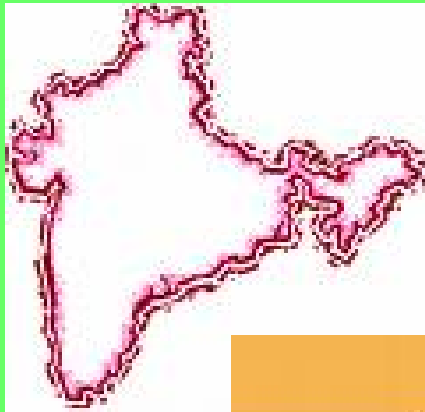


Hinduism

- Hinduism is older than any other living religion. It began so long ago that no one really knows how old it is, but it goes back at least 5,000 years.
- The name 'Hindu' was given to describe the people who lived near the River Indus in India: the word 'Indus' became 'Hindu'.
- Hinduism was not begun by any one person, it developed gradually as different groups of people met and shared their ideas and their ways of practising their beliefs.
- Today, Hinduism has many different 'branches' and its followers have a wide range of beliefs and ways of worshipping.
- Hindus believe in one God, called Brahman, but there are many deities (gods/goddesses) that each represent a different aspect of God.
- Hindus do not usually talk of their religion as 'Hinduism'. They prefer to call it *sanatana dharma*. This means 'eternal truths'.

Think about what you have just heard...

What does each picture tell us about Hinduism?



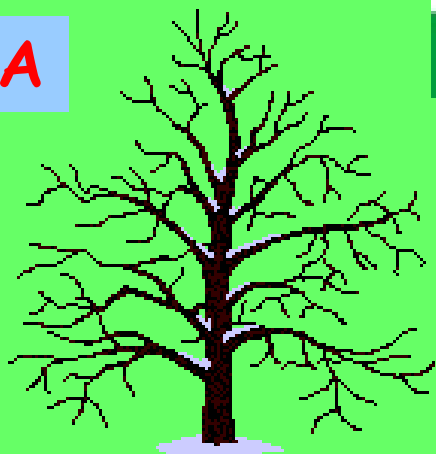
B



D



A



C



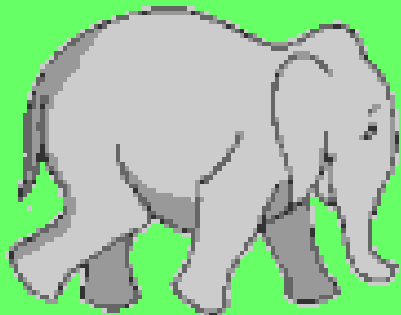
[YouTube - INDIA](#)



India



- India is the country where Hinduism began.
- India is a very large country.
- There are some very high mountains on the northern border of India called the Himalayas. Mount Everest is in the Himalayas.
- The River Ganges is a sacred river in India. People will travel hundreds of miles to bathe in the Ganges because they believe the water will make them pure.
- Most of the people in India live in villages but there are some very large towns such as Bombay, Calcutta and the capital, Delhi.
- The climate of India is very mixed. Some parts become extremely hot and others are cold. A very important part of the Indian climate is the monsoon or rainy season which is between June and September.





The aum symbol

The Hindu symbol is made up of Sanskrit letters. Sanskrit is a very old language. The letters spell the word 'Aum', which is a sacred Hindu word. Aum is the sound of the universe.

Questions

- 1) What do most Hindu's call their religion and why?
 - 2) What are the Hindu sacred writings called?
 - 3) Where and when did Hinduism begin?
 - 4) Which two ancient civilizations are said to have combined some of their beliefs and practices to make Hinduism?
 - 5) Describe the Hindu attitude towards other religions.
 - 6) Look at the map of India. Why do you think this area is important if you want to find out about Hinduism?
- Extension:** Make a list of all the things you believe always to be true no matter what the circumstances.



The Roots of Hinduism...

1) Draw this chart into your book and fill in the gaps.

Race	Looks	Worship	Lifestyle
Dravidians			
Aryans			

2) Where does the name 'Hindu' originate from?

3) **Extension:** Add another row to the table as follows:

Name	Looks	Beliefs	Lifestyle

Describe your looks, beliefs (religious or non-religious) and lifestyle.

Homework

Due:07/03/08

Hindus in the UK trace their family roots back to India.

- 1) Draw your own family tree to show your roots
- 2) Why are these roots important?





True or False



1) Hinduism began 500 years ago.

False, Hinduism began 5000 years ago.

2) Hinduism originated in Northern India.

True.

3) The word 'Indus' became 'Hindu'.

True.

4) Sanatan Dharma means extinct religion.

False, it means eternal religion.

5) The letters of the Hindu symbol spell 'Aum'.

True.

6) The Ganges is a mountain in India.

False, the Ganges is a sacred river in India.

7) The two ancient civilizations which combined to make Hinduism are known as the Dravidians and the Aryans.

True.

8) Hinduism is not very tolerant of other religions.

False, they believe that many religions lead to God.

9) Hindus believe that Sanatan Dharma is not just a religion, it's a way of life.

True.

10) Aum is the sound of the universe.

True.

