

Hinduism is the oldest major world religion. There are about 900 million Hindus.

Hinduism is the main religion of India but followers are found in many other countries.

Hindus believe there is only one God, who they call Brahman. They believe that Brahman takes on many forms as gods or goddesses depending on what *his* function is at the time.

Hindus say it doesn't matter which deity you worship because you will reach Brahman the supreme god in the end.

Hindus believe that God is everywhere so they can worship at home or in a temple called a mandir.

The River Ganges in India is said to be holy. Hindus bath in the river to wash away their sins.

Hindus believe that a person's actions (Karma) in this life will affect what form, animal or human, they will be reborn into the next.

Hinduism has several Holy Books. The oldest are called Vedas— a collection of hymns which tell about the nature of the world and how to worship gods.

A sari is the traditional dress of Indian women made from one piece of cloth. Many women also wear a jewel in their nose.

Most Hindus from Northern India are vegetarians as it is thought wrong to kill animals.

Some Hindus do eat
meat but not beef.
The cow is a holy
animal to Hindus.

Holi is a festival that celebrates the start of Spring.

Diwali is a joyful festival of lights in honour of Rama and Sita. Homes are lit by sparklers, lamps and candles.

At Divali, people make Rangoli patterns from coloured rice powder in the shape of swirls and flowers.

This is the symbol
Om sometimes
spelt Aum. It is
the sound or
word for God.

Ganesh – the elephant headed God who is prayed to for success in new ventures and business. God of wisdom and good fortune.

Krishna – the god of love who appeared on earth to save mankind. He is shown in human form with blue skin.

Shiva – the god who
rules life and death.
The destroyer and
creator of all things
in the world.

Sanskrit is the
ancient language
in which the Hindu
Holy Books are
written.

Brahman – the spirit
of God who runs
through everything in
the universe – plants,
humans and animals.

Lakshmi – goddess of happiness, wealth and good fortune prayed to at Divali to bring luck in the coming year.

Saraswati – the goddess
of learning and the arts.
Her 4 arms represent
intelligence, understanding,
self esteem and the sense of
right and wrong.

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We have read the story of Rama and Sita. They freed their kingdom from evil by killing Ravana.