

Freeland CE Primary School

KCV Kingfishers Spring 1 Year B

Theme: Beliefs

Key Question: Do Murtis help Hindus to understand God?

Key Knowledge

Hindus believe that there is one true God called Brahman.

Hindus worship other deities who they believe to be different ways to understand Brahman in different forms.

Murtis are the colourful figures and pictures of the deities found at Hindu shrines and temples. These figures usually form the focus for prayer, as they are believed to be filled with spirit of the god they represent.

The Trimurti is Brahma – the creator, Vishnu – the sustainer and Shiva – the destroyer.

The aum/om symbol, representing the sound that created the universe consists of the same three elements and is often chanted in prayer.

Each member of the Trimurti has a consort, with her own special characteristics. Many of the deities are believed to have come to earth in human and animal forms. Vishnu for example has appeared in 9 avatars, including Rama and Krishna and a 10th is expected – a rider on a white horse. There are many stories about the various deities and their avatars, which Hindus take as a whole to help them understand God and the world. But as with all stories there are different interpretations and in different parts of India there are varying traditions and practices.

The belief that God is in everything, including water, stones, the earth and all people, is the reason why most Hindus are vegetarian.

Hindus choose which deities they wish to focus on and that they will turn to different deities at different times and occasions.

Read the stories of Krishna, Durga, Shiva, Ganesha.

Key Vocab

Definition

Brahman	The first God in the trimurti and believed to be the creator of the universe.
Murti	An image or statue of a Hindu deity/God
Trimurti	Made up of 3 deities, Brahma – the creator, Vishnu – the sustainer and Shiva – the destroyer.
Aum/om	It means the beginning and ending of everything and is the most sacred symbol in Hinduism.

Key Concept Questions:

Why do Hindus believe Brahman is the one true God if there are many Gods that Hindus worship?

How do Hindus believe that they can get to know the different characteristics of Brahman?

Why do Hindus worship different deities at different times?

Why is Puja important to Hindus?

How do stories about the deities help Hindus to understand God better?

How do murtis help Hindus to understand God?

Is it right to choose which aspects of God you worship?

