

Year 4 RE Knowledge Organiser: Hindu Homes and the Mandir

What? - Key Vocabulary

Aum	The symbol of Brahman, the absolute God. Some believe the sounds of Aum represent 3 things: earth, atmosphere, heaven.
Ganesha	He is the god of wisdom and intellect. He is also known as 'the remover of obstacles'.
Mandir	The Hindu Temple or place of worship.
Deity	A God or Goddess.
Brahman	The absolute Hindu God with four faces facing all directions.
Saraswati	The wife of Brahman and goddess of music and arts.
Vishnu	The Preserver— Protects the Earth.
Shiva	The Destroyer— Removes all evil (bad) from the Earth.
Shrine	A place in the home where objects for worship are placed e.g. statues.
Puja	The Hindu daily act of worshipping (praising) their god.
Murti	An image of god that is sacred.
Arti	The ritual of making a ghee (pure butter) lamp and offering it to the gods.
Prasad	The custom of offering food and drink to the gods.

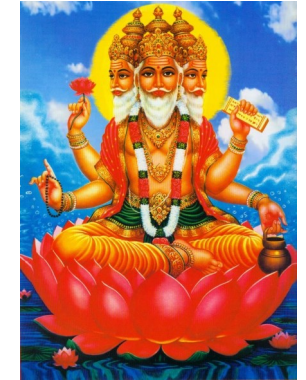
Core Knowledge



The **aum** symbol is one of the most important symbols in Hinduism. It is the symbol of Brahman, the absolute God.

Brahman is one God, but can be represented in many ways. Hindus believe Brahma created the world and the human race. His four faces look in every direction - north, south, east and west.

Saraswati and Brahma were husband and wife. She is the goddess of music and the arts. Here, she is playing a veena.



Hindus choose to worship one God or Goddess at home, or may worship a few. They will have a shrine to the gods with pictures, statues and possibly flowers, food and water for the God.

Some temples (**Mandirs**) worship one deity in particular, although many Mandirs have images and statues of a number of gods and goddesses.

Vishnu - The Preserver. He protects the earth from being destroyed. In one of his left hands he is often shown holding a club-like weapon.

Lakshmi is married to Vishnu. She is the goddess of beauty, wealth and prosperity. She is often shown holding gold.

Shiva is the destroyer. He removes all evil from the world. He is shown as being blue because, according to a legend, he swallowed poison to save the universe.

Ganesha is the remover of obstacles. When people start a business, buy a car or begin something else important, they worship him.

