

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser – Year 4



Hinduism

What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

Key Vocabulary


Hindu	A follower of Hinduism
Hinduism	The belief system Hindus follow
Arati	A ritual performed in home or temples in which incense and light is offered to the deity
Veda	Knowledge
Vedas	The four ancient sacred texts of the Hindu religion
Puja	Daily prayer or worship
Shrine	A small altar or murtis used for worship
Bhajans	A devotional song
Diwali	A Hindu festival of light
Dharma	The Hindu way of life – duty

Key Questions and Golden Nuggets


What do Hindus believe?	Hindus worship at mandir. Hindus believe in one God called Brahman who is represented through many different forms.
How do Hindus show their faith at home?	Hindus often have a Puja tray at home which includes a bell, flowers, Diwa lamp, water in a pot, a spoon and sweets or sugar.
How do Hindus show their faith when they're together?	When Hindus join together at home or at the mandir, they worship Hindu deities. They do this using the puja tray, by singing bhajans and repeating mantras, and through prashad
How do Hindus celebrate Diwali today?	Hindus celebrate the festival of Diwali by lighting Diwa lamps, food, fireworks, new clothes and gifts. Diwali is a time for reflecting on how light can overcome darkness in the world and in a Hindu's personal life.
How might the idea of Brahman being in everything affect the actions of a Hindu?	Hindus believe in 'atman' which is a spark of Brahman (God) living in every living thing. This impacts how they view and behave towards people, animals and nature.
What is it like to be a Hindu in Britain today?	Hindus make up a very small percentage of the population of Britain. There are many ways in which Hindus may feel they are similar or different to other people in their local communities.




The bell is to wake the deity up for worship and to announce the presence of the worshipper.
 The flowers represent the beauty and fragrance of the created world
 The Diwa lamp is for Arati which symbolises that worship removes darkness
 The water in a pot represents life.
 The spoon is used to give water to worshippers after it has been blessed
 The Murti is an image, usually representing a deity, and used as a focus for worship
 Sweets or sugar are there as an offering of food for the deity



1. I'm a Hindu
2. My faith is called Hinduism
3. I go to Mandir
4. I read the Vedas
5. I believe in one main god called Brahman who takes many forms



Maya



Rahul



Puja is worship of Hindu deities.

Hindu worship is primarily an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to the deity. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to god. The majority of Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made and prayers are said; family members may choose to worship together in the home. Rituals should strictly speaking occur three times a day. When they attend the mandir, Hindus take off their shoes as a sign of respect and cleanliness. The worshipper then goes into the shrine room and rings a bell before walking around the shrine; they may choose to sing, chant or pray whilst doing this.

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Diwali

What is Diwali?

The Hindu religious holiday called Diwali (also spelled Divali) celebrates the new year. Diwali is a major holiday in India, but it is celebrated by people living outside of India as well. The name Diwali comes from a Sanskrit word that means "row of lights." The holiday is often called the Festival of Lights. The festivities last for five days. The fourth day marks the start of the new year on the Hindu calendar. On the calendar we use in the United Kingdom, Diwali falls in late October or early November.

People in other countries where Hinduism is practiced also celebrate Diwali, as do people of South Asian ancestry around the world. Other religious groups, including Jains and Sikhs, observe their own versions of the holiday.

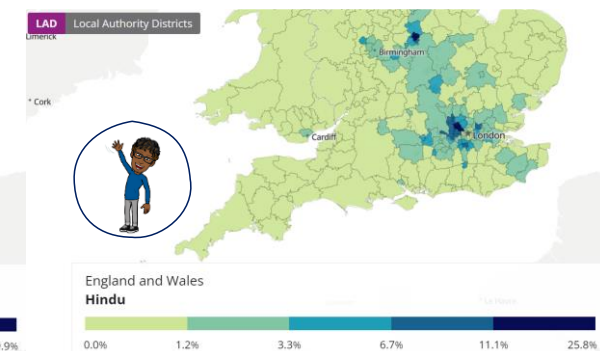
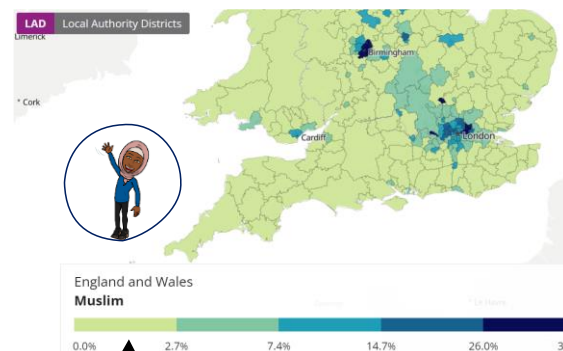
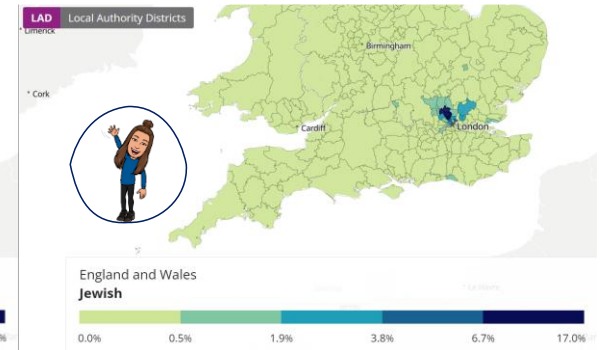
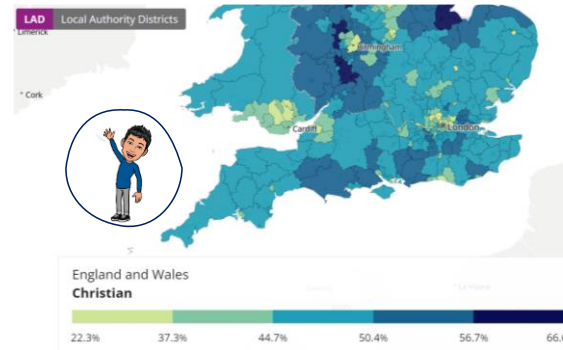
How is Diwali Celebrated?

Small lamps filled with oil light up houses and temples during this time. Some lamps are set out to drift in rivers and streams. Many Hindus believe that the lights welcome the presence of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good luck. People set off fireworks and firecrackers as well. Houses and temples are brightly decorated, and religious ceremonies are held.

People often visit friends and family during Diwali. They give each other gifts and eat their favourite foods, especially sweets. New clothes are worn as a symbol of the new year. The holiday also marks the time when many merchants open new account books.

Gambling is a traditional activity during Diwali. It is supposed to ensure good luck in the new year. Gambling also is a remembrance of the dice games played between divine couples—for example, between the god Shiva and his wife Parvati, or between the god Krishna and his companion Radha.

People who practice Hinduism see Diwali as a time to reflect upon their lives. They are encouraged to get rid of harmful behaviours, such as laziness and jealousy, and to try to see the good in people, even those they do not like.



Hindus make up a very small part of the population of Britain.

How do Hindus celebrate the festival of Diwali?

