

The National Junior C of E Primary School

Unit: Hinduism

Subject: RE

Term: 2

Unit Overview / Key Question:

How is Hindu Belief expressed personally and collectively? How does Hindu worship and celebration build a sense of community? How does celebration engage with/affect the natural world? How does this relate to beliefs about creation. A sense of belonging comes naturally in the Hindu tradition which promotes the idea of seeing oneself in others. The sense of belonging is enhanced through family get-togethers to celebrate festivals, or participate at weddings or other religious ceremonies, also through visiting the temple for worship or special celebrations. Families travelling together for pilgrimages creates a sense of belonging. It is through rituals that the individual feels connected with his family, community and faith tradition.

Symbols and Key Festivals

Diwali - The story of Rama and Sita is a festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.



Holi - The Holi festival commemorates the victory of good over evil, particularly the burning and destruction of a demoness named Holika.



What?

Key Knowledge

What do the symbols/objects in the mandir and home represent and how do they aid worship?	Most Hindus have a small shrine in their home where they can worship daily. This worship is called 'Puja'. The shrine will contain at least one image, called a 'murti', of their gods. Each shrine will also contain a puja tray which holds seven items; Bell, Diva Lamp, Incense, water container and spoon, Kum kum powder and prashad (blessed food). They help the Hindu to use all their senses when they worship, as a symbol that the whole person is taken up with the worship.
How does music, story and art express feelings, beliefs and values?	Art, music and literature are used to help them focus on practices such as prayer and worship. For many Hindus art has important connections to worship and devotion. Music and dance are important forms of artistic expression in Hinduism. Most festivals and celebrations involve dancing and music which are performed to symbolise the festival's themes of the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.
Why are festivals and ceremonies important to Hindus?	Hindu practices allow those who follow the religion to demonstrate their commitment to the faith. Hindu practices might also involve showing a commitment to the wider community, such as pilgrimage and charity work. Pilgrimage is also a way of meeting other Hindus. Festivals are an expressive way to celebrate glorious heritage, culture and traditions. They play an important role to add structure to our social lives, and connect us with our families and backgrounds.
Why do Hindus make pilgrimages to some places considered to be sacred?	Pilgrimage. A common reason that Hindus go on pilgrimages is to visit places that are of significance to certain deities. Some deities are believed to live or to have once lived, in specific places on Earth. To show their devotion to these deities, some Hindus go on pilgrimage to these places. Different places are considered important pilgrimage sites for different reasons. For example, rivers are considered sacred because water gives life.

Vocabulary

Mandir	A Hindu temple is called a mandir . It is a sacred place for Hindu worship.
Puja	Puja is a worship ritual performed in the morning.
Shrine	A shrine is a place where gods or goddesses are worshipped. They are in Temples as well as the home.
Pilgrimage	Pilgrimage is the practice of journeying to sites of religious powers, knowledge, or experience.
Ritual	A ritual is a religious service or other ceremony which involves a series of actions.
Deities	Another word for God.
Bhajan	A devotional hymn, or collection of hymns, usually sung collectively.
Aarti ceremony	Arti is the most popular ceremony within Hinduism. It is a religious ritual of worship, a part of puja, in which light (usually from a flame) is offered
Rakhi	Is the Hindu festival that celebrates brotherhood and love. It is celebrated on the full moon in the month of Sravana in the lunar calendar.

Prior Knowledge

Children will have looked at the description of deities and key figures described within Hindu sacred texts and stories. They look at the concept of Trimurti (triad of the three gods Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva) and other deities. They begin to recognise and understand the meanings of key symbols such as the Aum, swastika, Ganesh and lotus flower. They begin to understand the items on a Puja tray.

