

Year 3 Spring 1: What do Hindus believe God is like?



Wonderful words

Hindu: a follower of Hinduism, sometimes referred to as Sanatan Dharma, the eternal teaching

Brahman: a formless, ultimate reality, one energy or consciousness in the universe, the source of everything

Deity: Brahman channeled into different forms

Namaste: bowing slightly and putting hands together

Shiva: the destroyer of things so new things can begin

Aum: the sacred symbol that describes Brahman; the first sound of creation

Atman: the spark of Brahman in every living creature

Lakshmi: the deity of wealth and prosperity

Vishnu: the sustainer of all living things

Brahma: the creator of things who created the universe, people and creatures

So how does it all work?

Aum



Brahma



Vishnu



Shiva



Lakshmi

Important information

The **Hindu** tradition is diverse and ever changing and according to the 2021 Census, 1.7% of the population of the UK are Hindus.

The ultimate reality is known as **Brahman** who is the source of everything in the universe. The **atman** is a spark of Brahman in every living creature and the **namaste** welcome is a way of recognising the spark of Brahman inside every living creature. The **Aum** symbol represents Brahman but also the first sound in the creation of the universe.

Brahman can be found in many different forms, known as **deities**. For many Hindus the three most important deities are known as the Trimurti. **Brahma** is the creator deity who is responsible for the creation of the universe. **Vishnu** is the preserver deity who maintains the universe and **Shiva** is the destroyer deity so that new things can begin in the cycle of life and death.

Another important deity for Hindus is **Lakshmi**, at Diwali many Hindus will put statues of Lakshmi outside their homes in the hope that she will visit the home and bring the family good fortune for the new year.