

Class 4 RE: Hinduism

Week 5

Hindu Gods

Hindus actually only believe in one God, Brahman, the eternal origin who is the cause and foundation of all existence.

The gods and goddesses of the Hindu faith represent different forms of Brahman. These gods and goddesses are sent to help people find the universal God (Brahman).

Most Hindus have a personal god or goddess such as Shiva, Krishna or Lakshmi to whom they pray regularly.

The three most important Hindu gods – the **Trimurti**

Remember, these are a representation of Brahman.



Vishnu
the preserver



Brahma
the creator



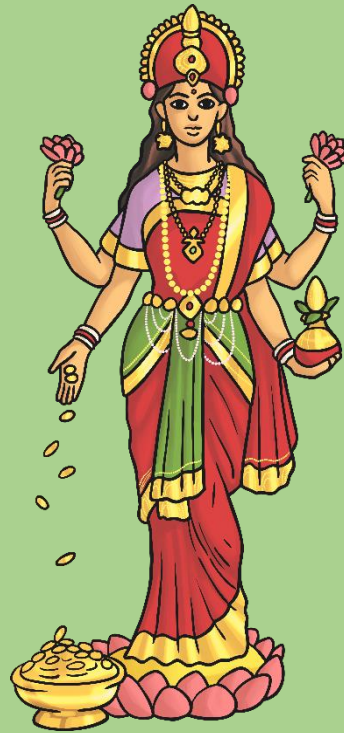
Shiva
the destroyer

The **Tridevi** are Goddesses who are equally important.

Saraswati



Lakshmi



Shakti



Brahma is the god (deva) of creation.



He has four arms and four faces, looking in the four directions.

Each of his four heads is believed to be responsible for one of the four Vedas (sacred Hindu texts).

Brahma is not worshipped as much as the other gods, as it is believed his role as creator is over.

His wife is Saraswati – the goddess of knowledge.

Saraswati is the goddess (devi) of knowledge and the arts.

Her swan personifies pure knowledge. She is sometimes depicted with a peacock which is said to represent the arts.

She taught Brahma (her husband) the ability to sense, think, comprehend and communicate.

Saraswati rejected material things in favour of pure wisdom.



Activity

Select one of the other Hindu gods or goddesses and create a fact file on him/her. You will need to conduct some of your own research.

You might find the following websites useful:

<https://www.learnreligions.com/top-hindu-deities-1770309>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/religion/hinduism.htm>

You need to:

- Describe or draw the god/goddess.
- State what is special about the god/goddess you have chosen.