

Year 4: How and why do Hindu people worship in the home and in the Mandir?

YEAR GROUP BIG QUESTION: What is important to people in my local community?

Vocabulary

Aarti: Welcoming ceremony in which auspicious articles such as incense, flowers and ghee lamps are offered to the deity/deities. Aarti is part of puja when a flame is passed in front of the deity/deities and then worshipper cup their hands over the flame in order to show their devotion. Sometimes, the word aarti is used as a synonym for puja

Aum: The sacred symbol and sound representing the ultimate, the most sacred of Hindu words. This sound (sometimes written as 'Om') is often used in worship and meditation during which it might be chanted. It is usually shown in the form of Sanskrit writing. If you visit a Mandir, you will often find a sign saying 'Aum' inside and outside the temple

Ganesha: (Ganesh) The elephant-headed God who is much loved within the Hindu tradition. Most Hindus will have a representation of him on the entrance to their homes because he is believed to remove obstacles and make new pathways easy. He helps to find resolutions, open things up.

Mandir/Hindu temple: Place where some Hindu people go daily or weekly for puja/prayers

Murti: An Icon of the sacred image or deity used as a focus of worship.

Prasad: Something material – usually food, but sometimes flowers, water or ash - which has been offered to the deities and which is then received back by worshippers as a symbol of receiving divine blessing

Puja: 'Worship', which consist of a series of symbolic actions and devotional words (including singing). General term referring to a variety of practices in the home or Mandir.

Puja tray: A metal tray (usually stainless steel) which contains items – such as a small bowl in which ghee (clarified butter) and a wick can be placed to form a lamp) – used during puja

Key learning

Compare and contrast ideas about God
Explain Hindu god characteristics shown
through symbolic pictures

Symbols/Images/artefacts

Aum
Puja tray

Important people/places/artefacts

Murtis at Radha Krishna Temple in Stratford

Links to further learning

Research Hindu deities e.g. Brahma, Vishnu, Krishna, Lakshmi- What do Hindus learn from the deities? How do Hindus show respect to the deities?

Create a Mandir in the classroom or an area of the school children to 'experts' and guide other pupils around it.