



Knowledge Organiser – Hinduism: Celebrations, Stories & Sacred Spaces

Years 1 & 2

What is Hinduism?



Om or Aum

- Hinduism is one of the **oldest religions** in the world.
- Hindus believe in **one God** who is shown in **many different forms** (deities).
- Many Hindus live in **India**, but Hindu families live all around the world — including the UK.
- Hindus use **special objects, symbols** and **actions** to show respect, say thank you and celebrate their faith.

The Story of Rama and Sita



- Rama and Sita are **heroes** in a famous Hindu story.
- The demon king **Ravana** took Sita away.
- With help from the monkey hero **Hanuman**, Rama rescued her.
- Their story teaches Hindus about **good overcoming evil, courage, kindness** and **doing what is right**.
- It is an important part of the festival **Diwali**.

Diwali – The Festival of Light

- Diwali is one of the most important Hindu celebrations.
- It lasts **five days** and celebrates the **return of light**, hope and goodness.
- Families clean their homes and light **diya lamps** to welcome good fortune.
- Hindus use **rangoli patterns**, share sweets, wear new clothes and spend time with family.
- Many people watch **fireworks** or visit the **Mandir** for worship.



Important Hindu Objects

- **Diya lamp:** A small clay lamp showing how light wins over darkness.
- **Puja tray:** Holds items for worship such as incense, water, flowers and a bell.
- **Murti:** A statue or image of a deity, treated with respect.
- **Rangoli patterns:** Colourful designs made to welcome visitors and bring good luck.



These objects help Hindus to pray, focus, say thank you and show respect.

The Mandir

- A Mandir is a **Hindu place of worship**.
- It is a special, peaceful place for prayer, music, celebration and community gatherings.
- Hindus remove their shoes and show kindness and respect inside.
- Mandirs contain shrines, murtis, and spaces for aarti (a light ceremony).
- The Mandir helps Hindu families feel a sense of belonging.



Home Shrines

- Many Hindu families create a **shrine at home**.
- It may include: a small **murti**, candles, flowers, water and pictures.
- Families pray together, show thanks, and reflect quietly.
- A home shrine helps Hindus bring the **values and teachings** of their faith into everyday life.



Key Vocabulary To Explore At Home

Surface Knowledge: Hindu, Hinduism, Diwali, light, Rama, Sita, good, evil, objects, puja tray, Mandir, temple, home, shrine

Deeper Knowledge: symbol, Rama, Sita, diya, courage, respect, prayer, worship, shrine

Adventurer Knowledge: celebration, rangoli, overcome, Hanuman, loyalty, worship, deities, offering, community, respect

Home/School Links

- Encourage children to talk about the **Diwali story** and explain why diya lamps are important.
- Try simple **rangoli patterns** using chalk, pasta or natural materials.
- Visit a local **Mandir** website to explore real-life pictures.
- Talk about **values** shown in the Rama and Sita story: bravery, truth, kindness.
- Look at candles, lights or decorations at home and discuss how different festivals use **light** to celebrate.
- Discuss how families create places for **quiet, reflection** or **thankfulness**.
- Read simple Hindu stories together or watch child-friendly videos (BBC Bitesize).

Useful Websites

- [BBC Bitesize – Hinduism](#)
Child-friendly videos introducing Diwali, symbols and worship.
- [BBC Teach – Rama and Sita Story](#)
Simple animation perfect for KS1.
- [RE:Online – Hindu Artefacts](#)
Clear photos and explanations of puja tray objects.
- [Mandir Virtual Tour \(Neasden Temple\)](#)
Helps children visualise worship spaces.

