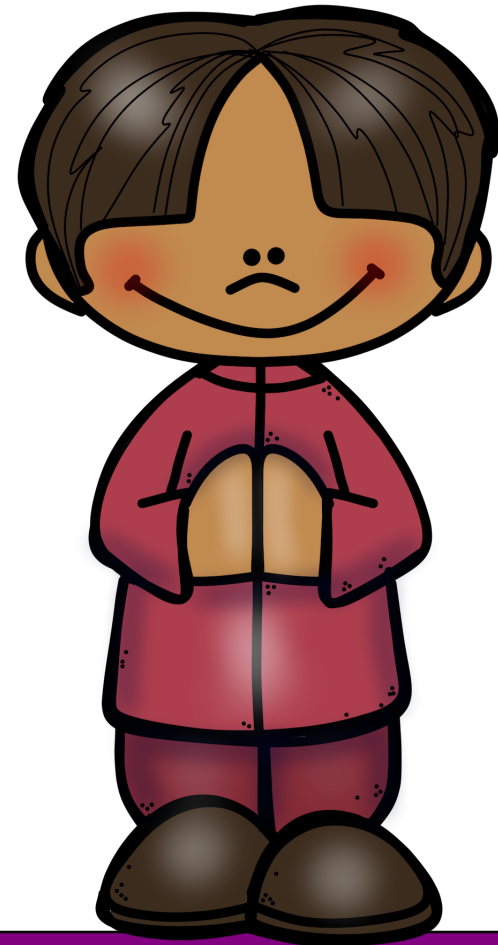


# Hinduism

Hinduism is the world's third most popular religion, with around 750 million followers. The religion of Hinduism originated in Northern India about 4,000 years ago and is the world's oldest existing religion. Hinduism is practised by more than 80% of India's population.



Hinduism

# Brahmanism

Hinduism has no founder, it developed out of Brahmanism. Hinduism is the oldest religion, it is said to date back to prehistoric times.



Hinduism

# Hinduism and Other Religions

Hinduism has no founder,  
single teacher nor any prophets.  
Hinduism is not a single religion.  
Hinduism is the practises of a  
variety of different religious  
groups which come out  
of India.



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Hinduism

# Tulsi

Tulsi, also known as 'Holy Basil', 'Queen of the Herbs' and 'Elixir of Life' dates back thousands of years along with Hinduism. This herb is revered in India as a sacred herb and is recognised for its spiritually uplifting and healing properties.

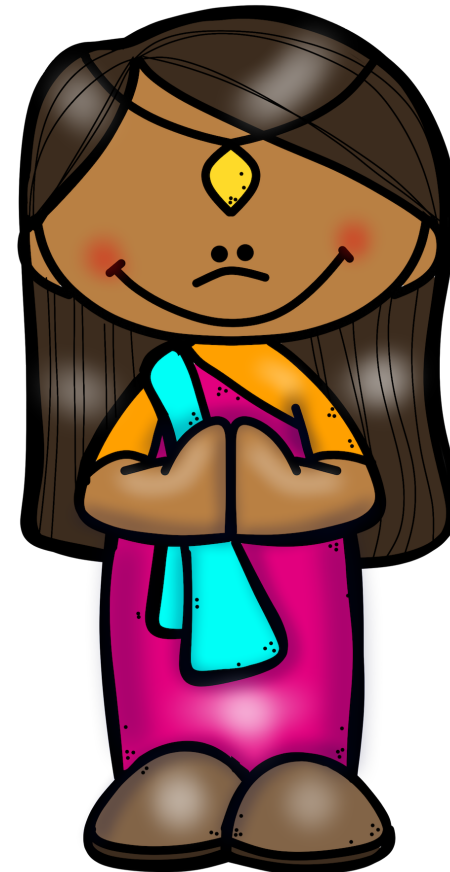




Hinduism

# Worship

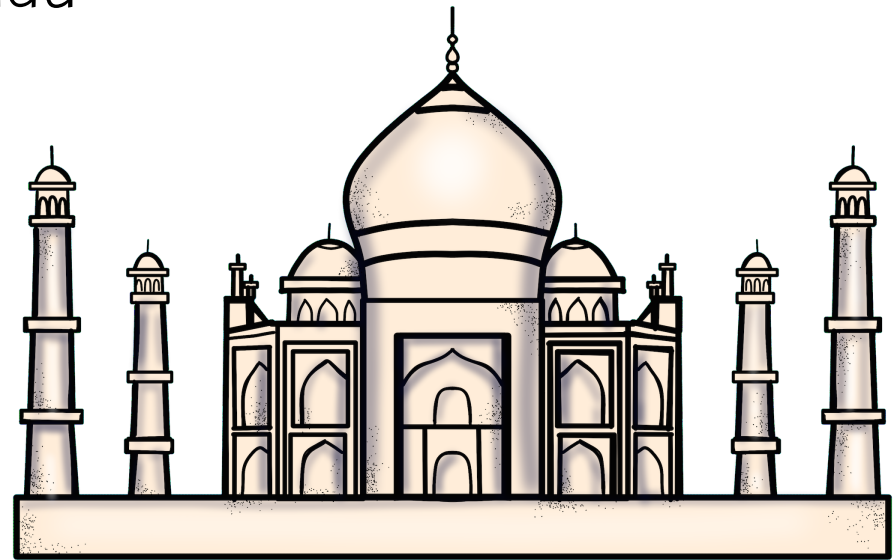
Most Hindus worship every day at home and have a shrine there. A shrine can be anything from a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues. At the shrine, Hindus make offerings to a murti. A murti is a sacred statue of God, or a god or goddess.



Hinduism

# Mandir

The Hindu building for communal worship is called Mandir (Hindu Temple). The temples are dedicated to different gods and are the focus of religious life. Outside India, people mainly gather at the mandir at the weekend.



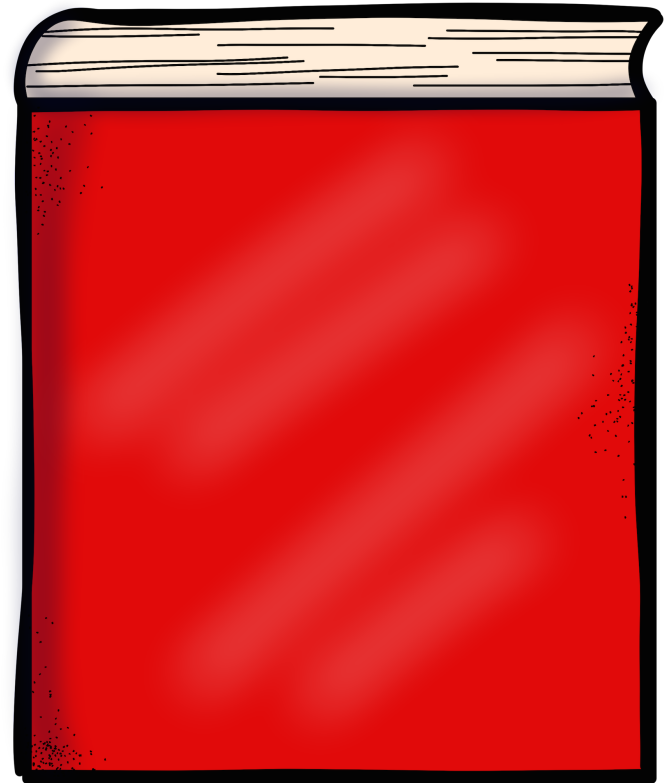
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Hinduism

# Vedas

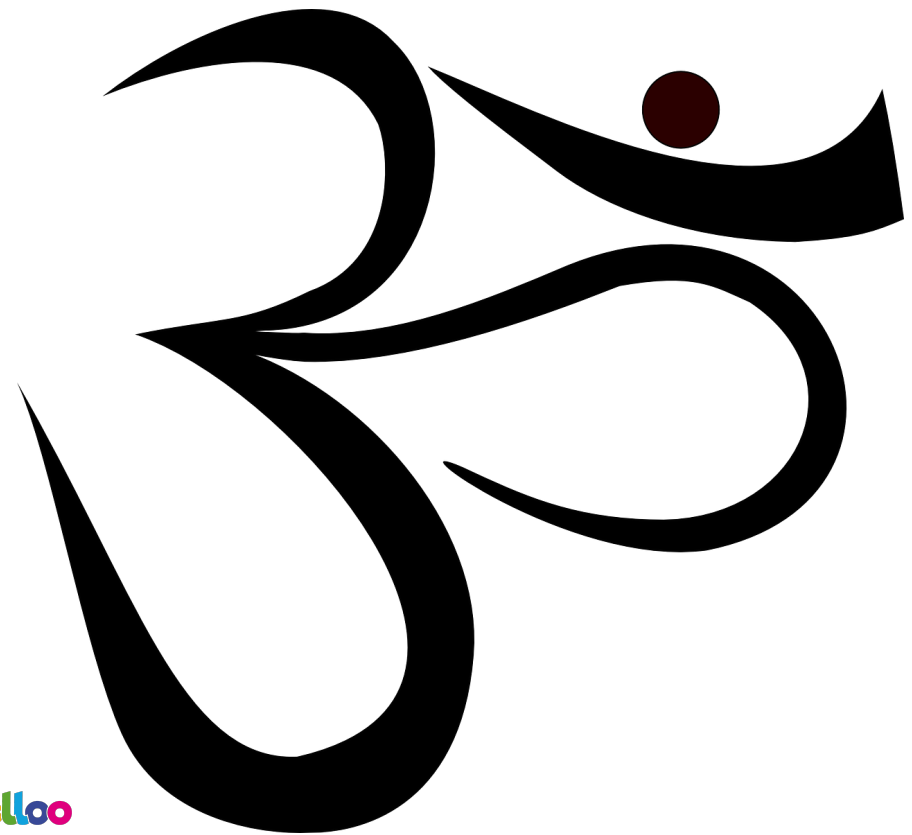
The most ancient sacred texts of the Hindu religion are written in Sanskrit and called the Vedas. Hinduism does not have just one sacred book but several scriptures. The Vedas scriptures guide Hindus in their daily life.



Hinduism

# Aum

Aum is the main symbol of Hinduism. It is the sound heard in deepest meditation and is said to be the name most suited for God.



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Hinduism

# Diwali

The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. In Hinduism, the festival honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. Hindus will leave the windows and doors of their houses open so that Lakshmi can come in.



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Hinduism

# Hindu Gods

The gods of the Hindu faith represent different forms of Brahman. These gods are sent to help people find the universal God (Brahman). Most Hindus have a personal god or goddess such as Rama, Durga or Lakshmi to whom they pray regularly.



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