

An enquiry-approach to visiting places of worship



My enquiry into religion by visiting the Hindu Mandir

Name

Class

Date of visit

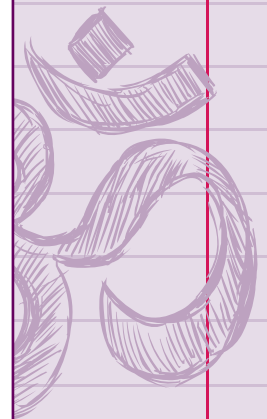
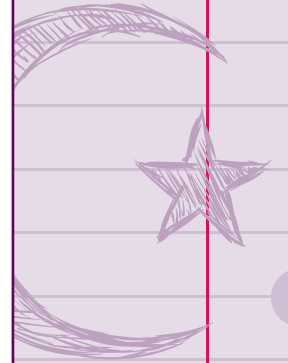
Year Group 5



How do you know what Hindus believe about God
by what you encounter in this place of worship?

What do I know about Hindus beliefs about God
already?

I know that Hindus believe that God is seen in many forms.
Each part of God does different things and there are often statues
of some of them in the temple. Hindus believe that God created
everything and is in all living things.



6 encounters

In each box put a picture of one encounter e.g. a piece of furniture, a symbol, a person, a piece of music and in the 'Clues' box write what this encounter might tell you about the beliefs behind it.

1



Shoe Rack - Hindus take off their shoes to visit the temple. It is respectful to keep the temple clean as they are going to worship God in a special place. God deserves respect.



2



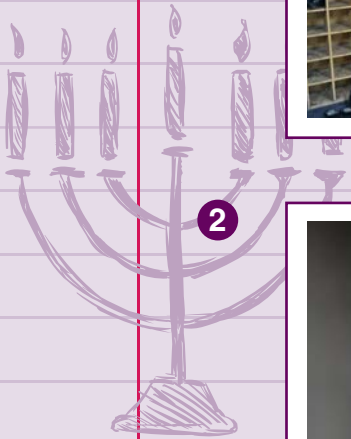
The bell - one reason why some Hindus ring the bell is to let God know that they have come to pray. There is a bell in the main prayer room and Hindus ring it when they enter. I think it would help put them in the right frame of mind but might put others off if they are already there trying to pray. I suppose this means they think God can hear them.



3



Om symbol - the Om symbol is the main symbol of Hinduism - (many Hindus believe it was the sound made at the creation of the world.) The symbol can be seen in many different places inside the temple and so I think it might mean Hindus believe God created the world.



4



Murtis - Hindus believe in God in many forms, this is why there are many murtis or statues - these are colourfully dressed and treated with respect - offerings are given too. I like the fact that animals are included in murtis. It makes it a bit confusing that there are so many when Hindus believe there is one God. I don't really get it.



5



Ganesh - Ganesh is my favourite because of his elephant head but I am not keen on the story. It seems a bit harsh. I know Ganesh is important to Hindus as he helps them with their problems but I am not sure how this works and am confused as to how Ganesh relates to God for Hindus.



6



Notice board - The Hindu temple is a place where people can meet. There are often events going on. I think it would help them feel part of a community but do they all believe in the same God or lots of different ones?



My encounters so far lead me to deduce that ...Hindus... believe
 that God is in every living thing and that they worship God in many different ways.
 The murtis are colourful and represent different aspects of God but I can't quite get this
 or understand how they all believe the same thing if there are so many gods?.....

What questions do I need to ask to find out more about what
Hindus believe?

(Can I talk with a member of this religion to hear their answers?)

My questions

Answers (more clues)

1

1. Why are there so many different murtis and how can these all be part of one God?

2

2. Why are murtis dressed in different colours at different times?

3

3. What happens to the offerings that are brought?

4

4. Are some parts of God more important than others?

5

5. How would a Hindu choose which part of God to worship?

6

My encounters so far lead me to deduce that Hindus believe that God is all around them.

This page shows what I have found out from my encounters in this place of worship about the beliefs of the people who visit this place of worship.

Hindus believe that God is all around them but they do not think of God as looking in one-way. They have lots of different murtis or statues to show some of the different aspects of God. The temple is a colourful place with lots of murtis, people come and go in their own time and bring offerings to show respect. I like the atmosphere and how colourful it is but it does feel a bit random.

Hindus believe that God is in every living thing, this would make them be careful about how they lived their life for example they would not eat meat as an animal would have to be killed. God is in that animal.



This visit has been interesting to me because

I have seen how God is looked at in different ways by Hindus. I can see how believing in God would make a Hindu choose to behave in a certain way like not eating meat. The temple visit helped me to see that Hindus believe that God is all around us in different ways, but I am still confused as to all the different statues and how there can be just one God if there are so many gods!