

R.E. KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER SPRING TERM 1

WOULD VISITING THE RIVER GANGES FEEL SPECIAL TO A NON-HINDU?

KEY VOCABULARY AND SPELLINGS

Veda – the sacred scriptures

Bhagvad Gita – the holy book

Brahman – The creator, the one true God for Hindus, who has many different forms

Vishnu – the preserver

Shiva – the destroyer

Saraswati – the female energy of Brahman

Lakshmi – the female energy of Vishnu

Parvati – the female energy of Shiva

Diwali – the festival of lights

Karma – the energy the Atman creates in each life

Avatar – the form in which a god appears on Earth

Om – the sacred sound and symbol for Brahman

Pilgrimage – a journey, especially a long one, or moral or spiritual significance

River Ganges – a river flowing in India, which Hindus believe is holy

Dharma – means duty, the idea of 'living in the right way'

GODS The name for the Hindu God is Brahman. He is a powerful force and has many different roles and sides to his personality.

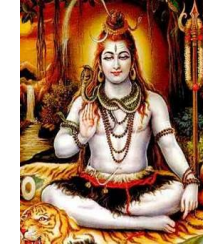
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DIWALI

An annual celebration, where the importance of new beginnings, food, decorations and specific preparations are made to encourage Lakshmi to visit and bring wealth and good fortune for the year ahead. It is known as the festival of lights and houses, shops and some public places are decorated with small oil lamps called diyas. Hindus celebrate the festival by spring-cleaning their home, wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts, decorating with lights and having firework displays.

RANGOLI

Rangoli patterns are created on the floor near entrances during special occasions and festivals. They are created using flower petals, coloured sand, dry flour or coloured rice. The patterns created can be based on nature including petals, flowers and leaves or can be geometric shapes.



PUJA Most Hindus have a small shrine in their home where they worship daily. This worship is called Puja. The shrine will contain at least one image (murti) of their gods and also have a puja tray which holds different items: bell, kum kum powder, water container, prashad (offerings), incense holder and a diya lamp.



What is the River Ganges used for?	The Ganges is important to both residents and pilgrims. Hindus see the river as a goddess. <u>Hindu's</u> believe that bathing in the river helps to cleanse the soul. People are baptised in the water and the ashes of people who have died are poured into the river. The river is also used for farming, <u>washing</u> and bathing.
What do Hindus believe about the River Ganges?	Hindus believe Brahman is in the water (a life source). People bathe in the river to wash away the wrong things they have done then will be pure/cleansed. Hindu legend says that the goddess of the Ganges, Ganga , was raised in the heavens and then came to earth and formed the river.
Where is the River Ganges?	The river Ganges starts high up in the Himalayan mountains and flows through the northern part of India into the Bay of Bengal.
Pilgrimage to the River Ganges	Hindus try to make a visit to the River Ganges at least once in their lifetime so they can bathe in the waters. Many Hindus come during the festival Kumbh Mela.

