

Hinduism



This term, we are going to be learning about Hinduism – the most popular religion in India.

To get started, watch this 4-minute video introducing Hinduism. Pay particular attention to the part about Gods, as that is what we are going to be learning about today!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02n5wv>

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Hindu Gods



Hindus believe in one main god – Brahman, but believe he is represented through many gods and goddesses, each with different roles and powers. Today, we will learn about 4 of them:

- Brahman
- Vishnu
- Shiva
- Ganesh

Brahman

Hinduism teaches that there is one great power. This power is Brahman. It is not a person. It is not male or female. It is the power of the universe, the power that is in everything and has caused everything to exist. Without Brahman there would be nothing. To explain this, Hindus use the example of water with salt in it. The salt in the water is everywhere just as Brahman is in everything. Hindus think of Brahman as “God.”



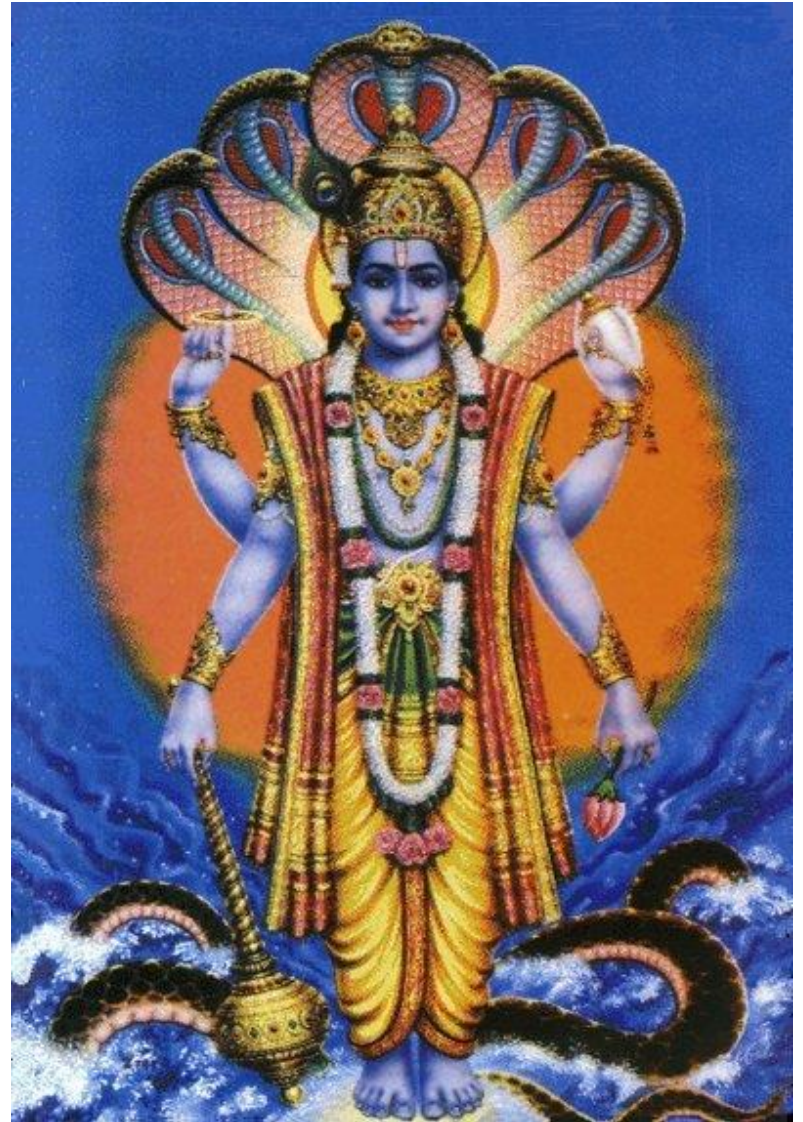
Shiva

Shiva is worshipped by about 25 per cent of all Hindus. Hindus believe that Shiva is in charge of life and death, and of good and evil. This is why statues of Shiva show him with at least four hands. He is often shown dancing, and one of his names is Lord of the Dance. Hindus believe he is the energy which keeps the universe moving.



Vishnu

Hindus believe that Vishnu has come to earth nine times. Each time, he came when the earth was in danger. He came to protect it. The two most important times were when he came as the god Rama, and then as the god Krishna. Krishna is very popular for Hindus.



Ganesh

Ganesh has an elephant's head. In the family of gods, he is Shiva's son. Hindus believe that Shiva cut off Ganesh's head by mistake, and gave him an elephant's head instead. For Hindus, Ganesh is the god of learning and good luck. Hindus who are beginning something new often pray to him.



**Can you remember 1 fact about each God?
Who is your favourite God and why?**



Brahman



Shiva



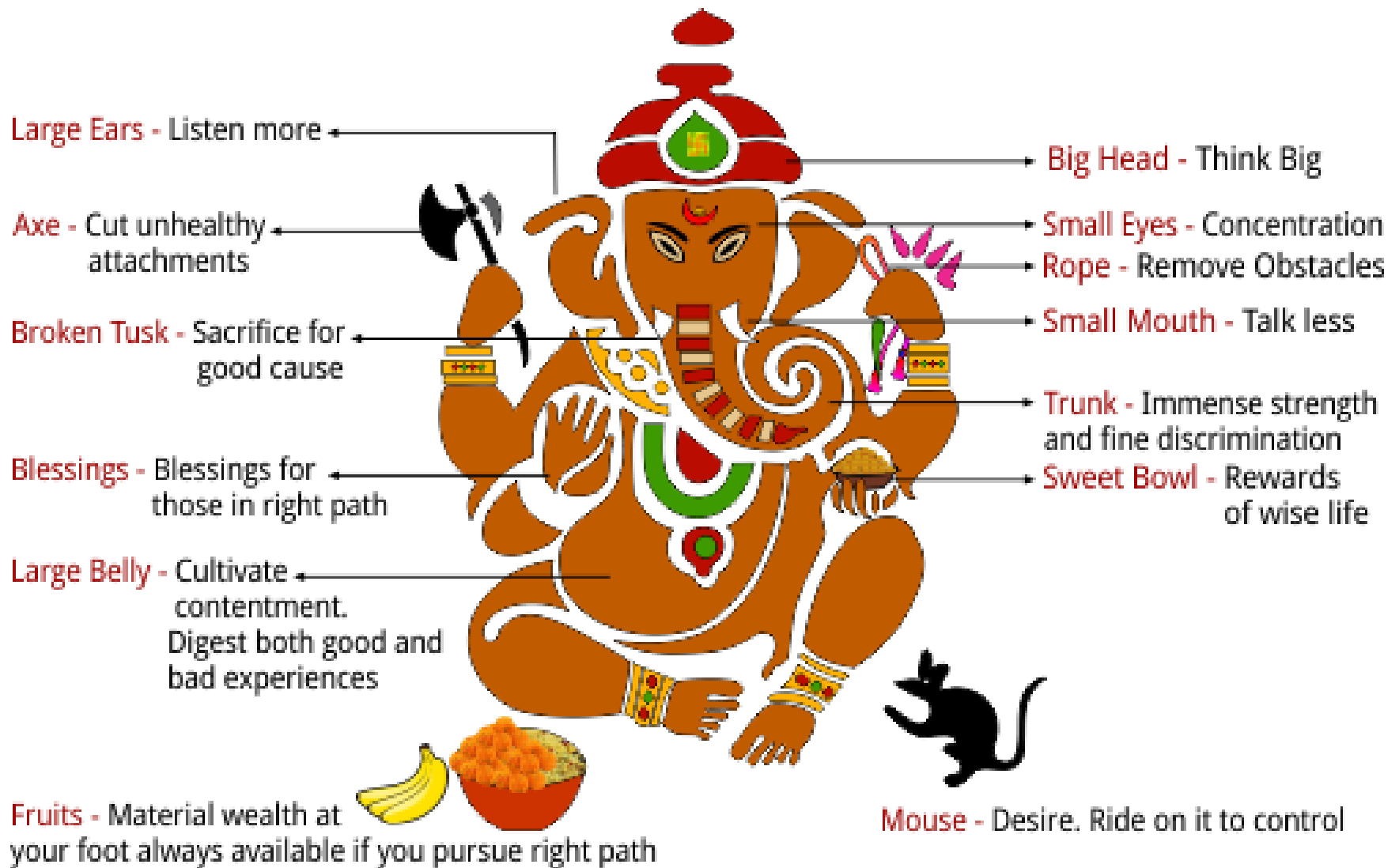
Vishnu



Ganesh

Activity

- **If you were a God, what powers would you want? What would you believe in?** For example, Vishnu has the power to protect Earth. **Make a list of these.**
- **What would you look like – what items or features would represent your beliefs?** For example, Shiva has 4 hands – 1 each to represent Life, Death, Good and Evil. **Make a list of these.**
- **On a piece of paper, draw yourself as a God – it doesn't actually have to look like you – for example, Ganesh has an elephant's head! Draw your God representation with special features representing the powers and beliefs you thought about in the above questions.**
- **Label the features in the drawing identifying the features and what they represent. On the next page is an example.**



This is an example of your task. This shows Ganesh's physical representation, his main features (e.g. large ears) and what they mean 'e.g. Listen more). Draw your own representation and label.