

Vocabulary

Aarti: Part of puja when a flame is passed in front of the deity/deities and then worshipper cup their hands over the flame in order to show their devotion. Sometimes, the word aarti is used as a synonym for puja

Aum: This sound (sometimes written as 'Om') is said to represent the divine. It is often used in worship and meditation during which it might be chanted. It is usually shown in the form of Sanskrit writing. If you visit the mandir in Ilford (Vishwa Hindu Parishad), you will find a sign saying 'Aum sweet Aum' on the inner wall above the main entrance

Ganesha: (Ganesh) The elephant-headed God who is much loved within the Hindu tradition. Most Hindus will have a representation of him on the entrance to their homes because he opens things up

Mandir/Hindu temple: Place where some Hindu people go daily or weekly for puja

Murti: An image – in the form of a statue, perhaps – of a Hindu deity such as Krishna (usually blue-skinned and holding or playing a flute), Hanuman (in the form of a monkey) or Ganesha (see above)

Prasad: Something material – usually food, but sometimes flowers, water or ash - which has been offered to the deities and which is then received back by worshippers as a symbol of receiving divine blessing

Puja: 'Worship', which might consist of a series of symbolic actions and devotional words (including singing)

Puja tray: A metal tray (usually stainless steel) which contains items – such as a small bowl in which ghee (clarified butter) and a wick can be placed to form a lamp – used during puja

Key learning

- Compare and contrast ideas about God
- Explain Hindu god characteristics shown through symbolic pictures
- Compare some of the things that are important to Hindu people in worship

Symbols/Images/artefacts

Aum



Puja tray

Important people/places/artefacts

Murti's at Radha Krishna Temple in Stratford

Links to further learning

- Research Hindu deities e.g. Brahma, Vishnu, Krishna, Lakshmi- What do Hindus learn from the deities? How do Hindus show respect to the deities?
- Create a Mandir in the classroom or an area of the school children to 'experts' and guide other pupils around it.