

Discovering Hinduism with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand key beliefs and practices of Hinduism, including the concept of Dharma and the significance of deities.

Read the passage carefully. Use the text to help you answer the questions that follow. Write your answers in full sentences.

Ellie the elephant loves learning about different faiths. Today, she is reading about Hinduism, one of the oldest religions in the world. Ellie learns that Hindus believe in one supreme spirit, but they worship this spirit through many different deities, such as Ganesha, the elephant-headed god of wisdom.

Ellie discovers that Hindus follow 'Dharma', which means living a good, honest life and doing the right thing. She reads that many Hindus visit a place of worship called a mandir. Inside, they might perform 'puja', which is a way of showing respect to the gods using lights, incense, and flowers.

One of the most interesting things Ellie finds is the belief in reincarnation. This is the idea that the soul is reborn into a new body after death. Ellie thinks it is wonderful that Hinduism teaches kindness towards all living things, including animals. She feels very proud to share the same animal shape as Lord Ganesha!

Word bank: Dharma · Deities · Mandir · Reincarnation · Puja

1. What is a mandir? (1 mark)

2. What three things might be used during puja? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think Ganesha is described as the god of wisdom? (2 marks)

4. How does the belief in Dharma influence how a person behaves? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important to be kind to all living things? Explain why using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Ellie the elephant visiting a mandir, including some of the items used during puja.



Extension challenge: Research a famous Hindu festival, such as Diwali, and write three facts about how it is celebrated.