

A Journey into Hindu Traditions with Ellie

Learning objective: To develop an understanding of core Hindu beliefs, including the concept of Brahman, the importance of deities, and the significance of Diwali.

Read the text carefully and use your knowledge to answer the questions. Ellie the elephant, who loves history and stories, has provided this passage to help you learn about the Hindu faith.

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest traditions, originating in the Indus Valley. Unlike some religions that focus on a single prophet, Hinduism is a diverse way of life. Hindus believe in Brahman, the ultimate reality or supreme consciousness that exists within everything. To help understand this vast concept, Hindus worship various deities, such as Ganesha, the remover of obstacles, and Lakshmi, who brings prosperity. Many families create a home shrine, a peaceful space for prayer and reflection. A core value in Hinduism is Ahimsa, which means non-violence towards all living creatures. This is why many Hindus choose to follow a vegetarian diet. One of the most famous festivals is Diwali, the 'Festival of Lights'. During this time, families light small oil lamps called diyas to symbolise the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. Just as Ellie remembers stories from across the globe, Hindus pass down these ancient teachings through colourful festivals, sacred texts, and daily acts of kindness, ensuring their vibrant heritage continues to thrive in the modern world.

Word bank: Brahman · Deities · Diwali · Shrine · Ahimsa · Tradition

1. Identify two deities mentioned in the passage and explain their roles according to Hindu belief. (2 marks)

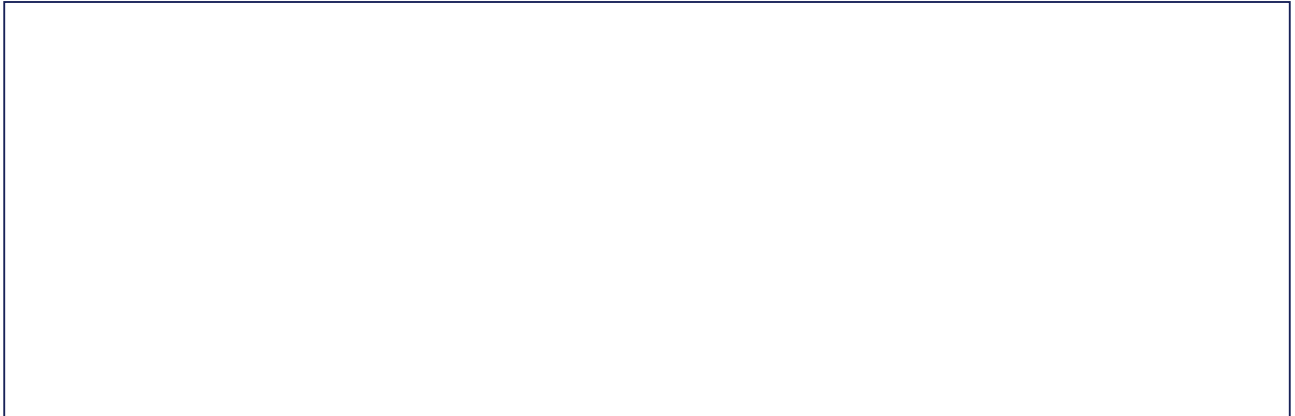
2. According to the text, what is the significance of lighting diyas during Diwali? (2 marks)

3. Based on the text, why might a Hindu choose to follow a vegetarian diet? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author describes Hinduism as a 'diverse way of life' rather than just a religion. (2 marks)

5. Do you think the concept of 'Ahimsa' is important in the modern world? Justify your answer with a reason. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional diya lamp decorated with intricate patterns, surrounded by symbols of light, to represent the spirit of Diwali.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the way Hindu families use a home shrine for reflection with how other cultures or religions use spaces for prayer. What might happen if a community stopped celebrating festivals like Diwali? Write a short paragraph justifying the importance of keeping cultural and religious traditions alive.