

Exploring Hindu Traditions with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand key beliefs and practices within Hinduism, including the concepts of Brahman and Divali.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below using full sentences. Ellie the elephant is here to help you remember the important details!

Hinduism is one of the world's oldest religions, originating in the Indus Valley. Ellie the elephant explains that Hindus believe in one ultimate reality called Brahman, which exists in everything. While there is one supreme power, Hindus may worship different forms or deities that represent various aspects of Brahman, such as Ganesha, the remover of obstacles. Many Hindu families have a small shrine in their home where they offer prayers, flowers, or fruit. One of the most famous celebrations is Divali, the Festival of Lights. During this time, families clean their homes and place small clay lamps, called diyas, in windows and doorways. The light represents the victory of knowledge over ignorance and good over evil. It is a time for sharing delicious sweets, wearing new clothes, and spending time with loved ones. Whether they are visiting a local temple or celebrating at home, Hindus focus on dharma, which is the idea of living a good, moral life. Ellie loves learning about how these traditions bring communities together through joy, light, and kindness.

Word bank: Brahman · Divali · deities · shrine · Diya · tradition

1. According to the text, what is the 'ultimate reality' that Hindus believe exists in everything? (1 mark)

2. List two ways that families celebrate during the festival of Divali. (2 marks)

3. Why might a Hindu family choose to have a shrine in their own home? (2 marks)

4. What does the light of the diya lamp represent in the context of the festival? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think it is important for people to have celebrations like Divali that focus on 'good over evil'? Justify your answer. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a peaceful home shrine or a row of glowing diyas on a windowsill, adding patterns similar to those used in traditional rangoli art.



Extension challenge: Research what 'rangoli' patterns are. Use colored pencils to design your own symmetrical rangoli pattern on a piece of paper to welcome guests into your classroom.