

Y5.5 What do Hindus Believe?

Hinduism is an Indian religion and dharma, or way of life. It is the world's third-largest religion with over 1.25 billion followers, or 15–16% of the global population

- Although the majority of Hindus live in India where the religion began, there are large Hindu communities all over the world.
- **Today more than a billion people in the world are Hindus.**
- All Hindus believe that **life, death and rebirth are a continuous process** that we are all part of.
- Many gods are worshipped in Hinduism. Each Hindu god is said to be a different part of the supreme God 'Brahman'.
- Hindus believe that God can be seen in a person or an animal. They believe that God is in everybody.
- **As well as visiting temples, Hindus worship God in their own homes and most houses have either a room or corner in which there is a family shrine.**
- Hindus believe that certain rivers are sacred and have the power to wash away sins (actions that are wrong in the eyes of God). **The Ganges River in Northern India is especially sacred to Hindus.**
- **Hindus believe that all living things have souls, which is why very committed Hindus are vegetarians.**
Cows are considered to be sacred animals among Hindus because they produce milk for people. In India cows are allowed to wander freely, so they can sometimes cause traffic jams if they stroll on roads!



Specialist Vocabulary

Monotheism — Belief in One God

Dharma— Eternal teaching. Following your duty

Holi—A festival that celebrates spring, love and new life

Diwali –Festival of lights

Cyclical—Going around in a cycle. In Hinduism this is

seen as birth, death and re-birth

Krishna -worshipped as a god but also considered to be an avatar of Vishnu, one of the forms that the god took when visiting Earth

Ganesh -the Remover of Obstacles

Hanuman -the Monkey-God

Lakshmi -the goddess of wealth and good fortune