

## Aspirational Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Hinduism	One of the oldest religions in the world, originating in India, with a belief in many forms of God.
Brahman	The ultimate reality or world soul in Hinduism; the source of all life.
Deity	A god or goddess; Hindus worship many deities as different aspects of Brahman.
Atman	The individual soul, believed to be eternal and part of Brahman.
Reincarnation	The belief that the soul is reborn into a new body after death.
Karma	The belief that actions have consequences, which influence future lives.
Moksha	The ultimate goal of liberation from the cycle of rebirth.
Puja	A Hindu act of worship that includes prayers, offerings, and rituals.
Mandir	A Hindu temple; a place of worship and community.
Diwali	A major Hindu festival known as the Festival of Lights, celebrating good overcoming evil.
Aum (Om)	A sacred sound and symbol in Hinduism, representing Brahman.

### Hindu Beliefs About God

- Hindus believe in one supreme spirit, Brahman, who is present in all things.
- Brahman can be worshipped in many different forms, such as Vishnu, Shiva, and Lakshmi.
- This allows for diverse and personal expressions of faith.

### Is Death the Start or the End?

- Hindus believe in reincarnation – the soul (atman) is reborn in a new body.
- Karma from previous lives affects the form and circumstances of rebirth.
- The ultimate aim is moksha – release from the cycle of rebirth and unity with Brahman.

### Hindu Worship

- Worship, or puja, can take place at home or in the mandir (temple).
- It involves offerings, chanting, prayer, and the use of images (murtis) to focus the mind.
- Worship is a way of showing love and devotion to God and seeking blessings.

### Hindu Worship in the Home

- Many Hindus have a small shrine at home for daily worship.
- Puja at home may include lighting candles, offering food, and reciting prayers.

- It helps maintain a personal connection with the divine throughout daily life.

### Celebrations in Hinduism – Diwali

- Diwali is a five-day festival celebrating the return of Lord Rama and the triumph of light over darkness.
- Homes are decorated with lamps, fireworks are set off, and sweets are shared.
- It is also associated with Lakshmi, goddess of wealth, and involves prayers for prosperity and happiness.

### Big Questions

- What do Hindus believe about God and the soul?
- Is death the end or the beginning of something new?
- How do Hindus worship and why is it important?
- What role does worship at home play in a Hindu's life?
- How does Diwali reflect key Hindu beliefs and values?

