

Year 2 Religious Education – World Religion Hinduism (Sanatana Dharma) – Term 6



Key Question: What might Sanatanis (Hindus) learn from the story of Rama and Sita and the celebrations of Diwali?

We are continuing to look at the Sanatani beliefs in God and how these beliefs are formed into images and murtis (images of the deities). We will consider the stories and symbols and how these beliefs impact on a believer's daily life, in particular the story and beliefs behind the Diwali festival. We will look at the celebrations and the symbols used to remember the story.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Hindu (Sanatani)	Someone who follows Hindu (Sanatani) Dharma
Brahman	Hindus recognise one god, Brahman
Lakshmi	Hindu goddess of Wealth
Diwali	Hindu festival celebrating the story of Rama and Sita
Rangoli	Decorative patterns created during Diwali
Ramayana	One of the holy books which includes the story of Rama and Sita
The Vedas	Hindu sacred scriptures

The festival of Diwali

Hindus (Sanatanis) believe in Brahman as the one true God who is formless, limitless, all-inclusive and eternal. Diwali is the story of Rama and Sita. It is an extremely popular festival for Hindus (Sanatanis) and happens at the start of winter. It celebrates the story of the Ramayana which describes the events leading up to the return of Rama to his kingdom after fourteen years in exile.

The festival is celebrated on many levels. The lighting of small lamps signals moving from darkness to light or from ignorance to knowledge.

There may also be a ceremony dedicated to the Goddess of Wealth, Lakshmi, where money is given to charity, gifts are exchanged and a family feast is held.

Special patterns called Rangoli patterns are created during festival times using materials such as coloured rice, dry flour, coloured sand or flower petals. The purpose of rangoli is mainly to be decorative but it is also thought to bring good luck.



Special Places for Hindus (Sanatanis)

Hindus (Sanatanis) can worship at home using a home shrine or mandir.



They can also worship in the temple – some temples are very tall buildings because Hindus believe it brings them closer to heaven. In a temple (or mandir) there are shrines and lots of murtis for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the murtis.



Aum

This is the most important symbol in Hindu Dharma.



The aum symbol represents a sacred syllable and Brahman, the ultimate reality.