



Religious Education Year 10 Christian and Hindu practices



Key Knowledge

Hinduism

1. Some Hindus believe that the whole world and everything within it is all connected to brahman. There is a belief in Maya (that all we are living under an illusion if we believe that we are all separate entities), this belief is called Advaita Vedanta. However there are some Hindus that believe we are in fact separate entities and do not exist as all connected to Brahman. They do not agree with Maya. This is called Dvaita Vedanta.
2. There are two groups within Hinduism, Vaishnavism and Shaivism. The first sect believe that Vishnu is the most important and the second believe that Shiva is the most important. Those that believe in Vaishnavism hold devotional worship towards Vishnu and believe in Dvaita Vedanta. Those that are Shavites worship Shiva in phallic form (an oval shaped black stone with three stripes across the top) and do agree with Advaita Vedanta.
3. Hindus believe in Gurus, religious teachers. They are spiritual leaders within Hinduism. You can honour a Guru through having their picture on a home shrine (mainly for important Gurus that have passed away), or attending their ceremonial gatherings and lectures, or offering money and their service as gratitude.
4. Hindu prayer does not just take the form of Puja the daily ritual. Hindu prayer can occur in the Mandir or at home. It can happen in groups or be an individual affair. The different types of prayer include Aarti, Havan, Drashan, Japa, Bhajan and even Yoga is a form of prayer.

Festivals

1. Easter for Christians is celebrated within the Church. Christians will give prayers and say thanks to God. Some Christians may even reenact the 12 stations of the cross (Jesus' journey to his crucifixion while carrying his cross). Within the Church they will also sing Hymns and take the Eucharist.
2. Christmas is celebrated in Church. Christians will sing hymns, read prayers and bible passages. They will build a replica of the birth of Jesus and make Christingles. Christians will meet Christmas eve and say special prayers and have Eucharist. This is called midnight mass.
3. At Diwali Hindus will clean their homes and decorate them with rangoli patterns, which will sit outside their homes to welcome in the Goddess Laxmi. They will prepare special food and read special prayers and carry out a particular Puja. They will also have fireworks. Money is given also.
4. At Holi a bonfire is lit to remember Prahalad who survived been burnt by his aunty Holika. Special prayers are read and food is prepared.
5. During Rakshabandhan sisters ties rakhi (bracelets) on the wrists of their brothers to protect them against evil influences. They pray for their long life and happiness. In return they receive a gift.

Key Vocabulary

Maya	The illusion that we are separate entities.
Advaita Vedanta	The belief in non dualism, we are separate entities all connected to Brahman
Dvaita Vedanta	The belief in dualism, that everything is separate and we are not connected or one with Brahman
Shaivism	A section within Hinduism that believe Shiva is the most important deity
Vaishnavism	A section within Hinduism that believes Vishnu is the most important
Havan	A Hindu prayer that requires a fire to be used
Aarti	A Hindu prayer that uses an aarti lamp that is lit
Bhajan	A group prayer that uses songs and instruments
Darshan	A quiet prayer, that is only between God and the devotee
Japa	A Hindu prayer using beads. Each bead will represent a prayer
Havan	A fire ritual performed on special occasions by a Hindu priest
Guru	Religious Hindu teacher/spiritual leader
Mandir	Word for Hindu temple

Festivals, Christmas, Easter, Rakshabandhan, Holi, Diwali, celebration, prayer, spirituality, Christingle, Eucharist, holy week, crucifixion, resurrection, Prahlad, Holika, Lakshmi and Bali, Rama, Sita, Laxmana, Ravana, bonfire, fireworks, bracelet

Key Terminology