

Hindu Worship at Home and in the Mandir

Learning Objective:

To learn about some important aspects of Hindu belief in God.

The elephant-headed Ganesha is a Hindu god worshipped by virtually all Hindus. He is the god of wisdom and intellect. He is also known as 'the remover of obstacles'. What do you think this means?





Do you know what
this symbol is?

Do you know what
it symbolises?



This is the aum symbol. It is one of the most important symbols in Hinduism.

It is the symbol of Brahman, the absolute God. Many Hindu children are taught that there is one god who is in everything.

The letters a - u - m represent a sound that many Hindus utter every day. Some people believe that the letters represent a triad:

earth - atmosphere - heaven

Although it is three things, it represents everything. In the same way, Brahman is one God, but is represented in many ways.





The Hindu idea of God can be confusing! Maybe this story will help...

Svetaketu always came proudly home after school each day. One day, his father asked him about God, but Svetaketu didn't know anything.

His father sent for a glass of water and asked Svetaketu to put some salt in it.

The next day, he asked where the salt was. Svetaketu could not see the salt but he could taste it in the water in the glass. 'That's a bit like the world,' said his father. 'God is invisible, but is there in everything.'





What do you think about this story?

How do you feel about this Hindu belief?

How does this belief differ from other beliefs about God or gods in other religions you have learned about?

How would you describe
this belief to someone
younger than you?



Take some time to think
about this question...