

# Hindu Worship at Home and in the Mandir

## Learning Objective:

To understand why a shrine is a special place in a Hindu home.

The elephant-headed Ganesha is a Hindu god worshipped by virtually all Hindus. He is often pictured holding sweets - a common offering placed at the feet of statues of Ganesha by worshippers.



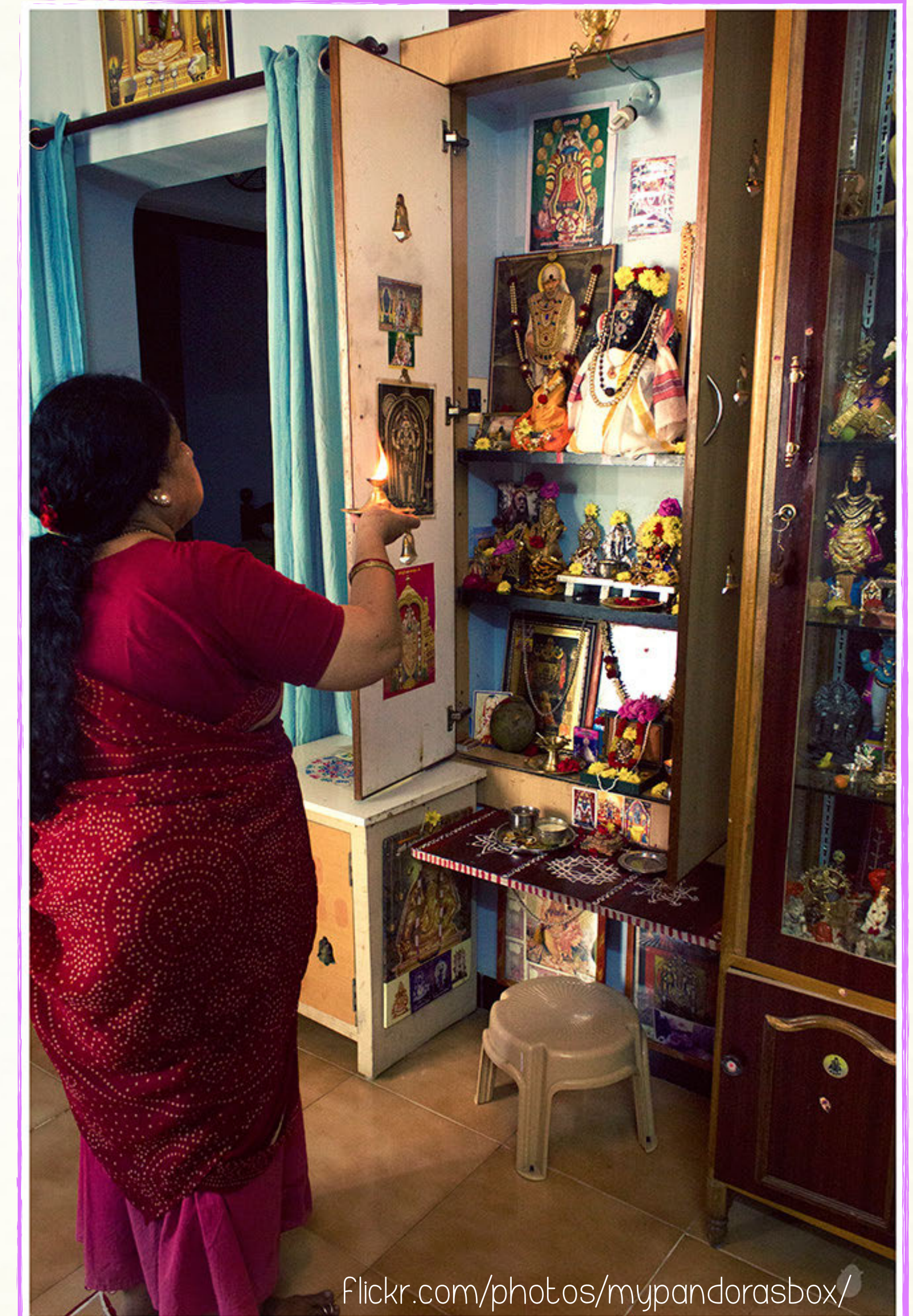
Do you  
have a special  
place at home?  
Where do you go  
if you want  
some peace  
and quiet?





What do  
you see?

Hindus may have  
a special place in  
their home called  
a shrine.



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Almost all Hindu shrines have pictures of gods and goddesses. Some may have pictures of Hindu leaders, family or other loved ones.

They may also have statues of special deities for the family.

Many Hindus will also place flowers in their shrines.



Shrines are all different! Some Hindus may have a very small shrine, while others may use a whole room in their house.



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Many Hindus will also place offerings of food, water or flowers in their shrines. These are often placed on decorated plates, called thalis.



Can you see the small brown dishes on the right? They're oil lamps! Do you know how they work?



If you had a special guest coming to visit your home, what would you do to make them feel honoured and welcome?



In their homes, Hindus treat their gods and goddesses like special visitors. At their shrines, they may worship their chosen deity by talking to them, presenting offerings of food or water, washing statues of them, respecting them and taking good care of them.

Hindus believe they can serve God by showing devotion to their chosen deity.



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What does  
'devotion' mean?

