

RE- Hinduism: Teachings and Authority

What spiritual pathways to moksha are written about in Hindu scriptures?

What I should already know: Hindus believe in reincarnation, which is the idea that people's souls are reborn many times in different bodies, including animal bodies. They believe in living good lives to store up good karma so that they will be reincarnated into a good body/ life the next time. Hindus worship many gods. There are many famous stories about the gods, including the story of Rama and Sita. Hindus believe in the idea of dharma, which means that each person is designed with certain duties to perform.

Enquiry Questions

- Can there be different pathways to the same goal?
- What dilemma did Arjuna face?
- What does the Bhagavad Gita teach Hindus about the different pathways to moksha?
- How is bhakti yoga used by Hindus as a pathway to moksha?
- How does the way Hindus live show that they are trying to follow the pathway of love and devotion?

Key Vocabulary

Arti – A Hindu worship ritual in which light (usually from a flame) is offered to one or more deities.
Bhagavad Gita – Part of the Mahabharata containing advice from Krishna explaining the different yogas.
Bhakti – The yoga pathway of loving devotion to God.
Bhaktivedanta Manor – A big Krishna centre, where many thousands of Hindus come for Krishna's birthday.
Circumambulation – Walking round a holy place or object.
Deities – Gods or goddesses
Devotion – Strong affection or loyalty
Dilemma – A situation that requires a choice between two actions, neither of which will be a good solution.
Janmashtami – Krishna's birthday, celebrated by Hindus.
Jnana – Yoga pathway of knowledge and study.
Karma – The yoga pathway of knowledge & study.
Krishna – One of the most popular of all Hindu deities, believed to be an incarnation of the god Vishnu and also a supreme god in his own right.
Mahabharata – An epic poem that is a Hindu sacred text.
Mandir – A Hindu place of worship.
Meditation – Sustained thought or self-forgetful concentration especially for the purposes of religious devotion or relaxation.
Moksha – Freedom from the cycle of birth-death-rebirth that Hindus believe in.
Prostrating – Throwing oneself flat on the ground so you are lying face downwards to show reverence or submission.
Puja – A type of worship ritual performed to one or more deities.

Skills

Pupils will:

Learning about religion and belief

- Make links that show how some Hindu beliefs come from the Bhagavad Gita.
- Use the right religious terms to describe what it might mean for Hindus to follow the different pathways to moksha.
- Show how Hindus express beliefs and feelings about Krishna in many ways e.g. as a child, in his universal form, and suggest why.

Learning from religion and belief

- Ask questions about what it means to belong to a group who are devoted to something and refer to 'devotees' they know and devotees of Krishna.
- Ask if being really devoted to something gives life meaning and purpose, suggesting their own answers and those a Hindu might give.
- Ask about moral decisions they and others have to make about the rights and wrongs of fighting as a way to solve conflict, referring to Arjuna.

*Raja – Pathway of yoga and meditation.
Ritual – A set form for going through the steps of a religious ceremony.
Shrine – A sacred place or object that is devoted to some holy person or god.
Yogas – Different Hindu spiritual pathways to moksha. The central idea of them is to give up yourself and keep God in everything you do.*



An image of Krishna



The different types of yoga



A shrine to Krishna

Links to other curriculum areas: