

RE- Hinduism: Inspirational People

How does the story of Rama and Sita inspire Hindus to follow their dharma?

What I should already know: Hindus believe in reincarnation, meaning that people can be reborn many times. They try to collect good karma, by living good lives, to ensure they get a better reincarnation for their next life.

Enquiry Questions

- What do we mean by the ideas of duty, roles and responsibilities?
- What were the characters of Rama and Sita like?
- How do Hindu stories explain their ideas about dharma?
- How does the Hindu community celebrate Rama and Sita's example of dharma?
- How are beliefs about dharma shown in Hindu weddings?

Key Vocabulary

Dharma – The duties a Hindu should follow in their life. Some are personal duties and some are eternal duties, meaning they are for everyone.

Diwali – A five-day festival celebrated by Hindus and Sikhs. It celebrates new beginnings and the Hindu New Year. It also represents the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness and is sometimes known as 'the festival of lights'. It is usually celebrated in October or November.

Dussehra – A Hindu festival commemorating the victory of the god Rama over the demon king Ravana.

Effigies – Likenesses of people, usually sculpted, as on a tomb; sometimes these represent a hated person and are burnt to show public condemnation of this person.

Mandap – Used in Hindu weddings. A richly decorated temporary structure with pillars, royal chairs for the bride and groom, side chairs for parents and a pedestal for the sacred fire.

Murti – An image of Rama and Sita, often given as a wedding present.

Rakhi – A bracelet of red and gold threads that a sister ties round her brother's wrist at the festival of Raksha Bandhan to remind him of his religious duty to protect her.

Raksha Bandhan – A Hindu festival celebrating brotherhood and love.

Ram Bhajan – A special Hindu song about Rama.

Seven Steps – An important part of a Hindu marriage ceremony where the married couple walk around the sacred fire and make seven promises to each other.

RE Skills

Pupils will:

Learning about religion and belief

- Describe what Hindus might learn about dharma or 'right action' from the story of Rama and Sita.
- Describe some things Hindus do to celebrate Rama and Sita's commitment to duty, some the same, some different.
- Describe some different ways Hindus show their beliefs in actions/ symbols/ words during a wedding.

Learning from religion and belief

- Compare some of the things/ people that influence them with those that influence others, including how the characters in the Ramayana influence Hindus.
- Ask whether everyone has the same or different duties in life and compare my ideas with others, including a Hindu view.
- Link things that they, and others, value as 'the duties of a human' and those valued by Hindus, with how we actually think and behave.

Useful Images



Statues of the characters of the Ramayana



Diya lamps lit for Diwali



A Hindu wedding mandap



A murti of Rama and Sita



Rakhi bracelets

Links to other curriculum areas; British Values – Tolerance and respect for other faiths.