



Class Tamar

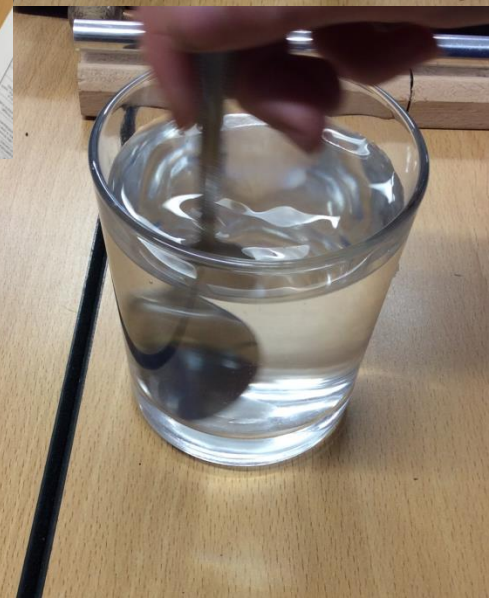
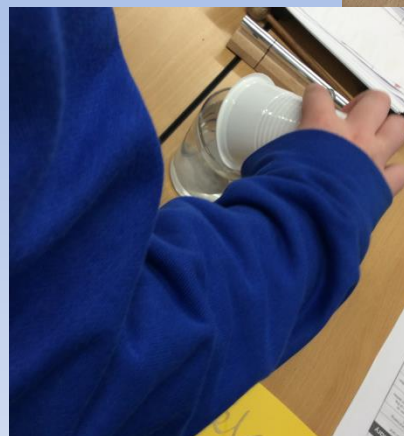
RE

What do Hindus believe God is
like?

We were introduced to the 'Aum' symbol used in Hinduism. Many Hindus believe that it's the very first sound out of which the universe was created. It is a symbol and sound to represent Brahman (God).



Even though you can't see the salt anymore it is still there when you taste it!



We used water and salt to tell the story of Svetaketu to illustrate the idea of Brahman being invisible but in everything.

In many Hindu families children are taught about one supreme God who is in everything. They are shown a glass of water and told the following story.

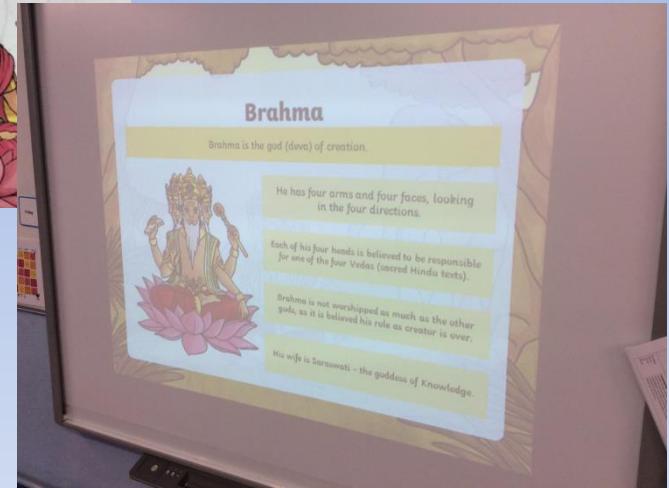
'Svetaketu always came proudly home from school each day. One day his father asked him about God but Svetaketu didn't know anything. His father sent for a glass of water and asked Svetaketu to put some salt in it. The next day he asked where the salt was. Svetaketu could not see the salt but he could taste it in the water in the glass. 'That's a bit like God in the world', said his father. 'God is invisible, but is there in everything.'



Many Hindus use an aum symbol when they worship. This is a special sign for God, often seen in homes and in Hindu temples (mandirs). The aum is either said or chanted because it helps the worshipper to concentrate on his prayers and think quietly about God.

We were introduced to the six different deities and talked about how each one represents different parts of God.

We reflected on how one picture of ourselves is not enough to describe who we are.



We drew six images to represent different parts of who we are. m

We looked at how Hindus often choose a deity to worship at a shrine in their own home. We found out about what happens at an act of puja at home, exploring it using the senses.



We also learnt that Hindus believe that they can worship God anywhere because it is believed that God is all around and in everything we do.



The symbol for 'om' is also the sound that was made when they were worshiping God.

We listened to the story of Rama and Sita, from the Ramayana, celebrated at Diwali. We looked at how Hindus prepared for Diwali. We then reflect on ways that we prepare for different events, eg tests or holidays, and how these preparations help the event to be more successful.



Before Christmas we put up a Christmas tree and decorate it.

Before we go on holiday we make a list of all the things that we need to pack. This makes sure we don't forget anything!

We talked about the idea for some Hindus that all living beings possess a 'spark' of Brahman (God), the Ultimate Reality. This 'spark' is known as '*atman*' and means that all living beings are sacred and special.



We discussed what difference this would make to how people treat each other and the natural world if everyone believed that all living beings contained the 'spark' of God.

What I have learnt before:

Different faiths and communities have different ways of making a promise to love and look after each other.

Different people belong to different religions and some people are not part of a religious community.



Saraswathi



Brahma



Ganesh



Aum: Om or Aum is a sacred sound and a spiritual symbol in Indian religions.

Knowledge within Hinduism

Hindus believe in one God (Brahman) and they believe he comes in many forms.

Hindus believe that there are three gods called the Trimurti who display the 3 aspects of the universal supreme God, Brahman.

Hindus have four life goals - Artha, Kama, Dharma and Moksha and they believe in Karma and reincarnation.

A Hindu's place of worship is called a Mandir. They can also worship at home using a home shrine.

The important features of a Mandir are: the main shrine, murtis, Aum, Bell and Vedus.

Hindus celebrate the festival of Diwali to remember the story of Rama and Sita.

Exciting Books**Subject Specific Vocabulary**

Hindu	Hinduism is an Indian religion and dharma, or way of life.
Deity	Deity or God is a supernatural being considered divine or sacred.
Ganesh	Ganesha or Ganesh, also known as Ganapati and Vinayaka, is one of the best known and most worshipped deities in Hinduism.
Murtis	Murti is a general term for an image, statue or idol of a deity or mortal in Indian culture.
Shrine	A holy or sacred site dedicated to a specific deity, ancestor, hero, martyr, saint or similar figure of respect wherein they are worshipped.
Worship	The feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.
Diwali	The Hindu festival of lights, usually lasting five days and celebrated during the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika.

Skills

Identify some Hindu deities and say how they help Hindus describe God

Make clear links between some stories (e.g. Svetaketu, Ganesh, Diwali) and what Hindus believe about God

Offer informed suggestions about what Hindu *murtis* express about God

Make simple links between beliefs about God and how Hindus live (e.g. choosing a deity and worshipping at a home shrine; celebrating Diwali)

Identify some different ways in which Hindus worship.

Raise questions and suggest answers about whether it is good to think about the cycle of create/preserve/destroy in the world today

Make links between the Hindu idea of everyone having a 'spark' of God in them and ideas about the value of people in the world today, giving good reasons for their ideas.

Our Endpoint

To discuss and reflect on the question: What do Hindus believe God is like?

Culture Capital: Learning about different religions will foster positive attitudes towards diversity within and between people of the same and different religions and people who live without religion.