

Year 4 Hindu gods and goddesses

Lakshmi



Lakshmi is the goddess of riches, both physical and holy. The word 'Lakshmi' comes from the word Sanskrit meaning 'goal.' Lakshmi therefore represents the goals of life, which is holy and physical wealth.



Lakshmi wears clothes in red and gold. Red represents activity and gold represents wealth. Lakshmi is often shown standing in a lotus flower and a lotus flower is in one of her hands. Lotus flowers are beautiful and float above the murky waters that they grow in.

Lakshmi holds a conch shell. The sound that comes from the shell is the sound of the sacred AUM, which is said to be the sound of creation. Lakshmi sometimes holds a jar of



gold coins which are pouring out and Lakshmi has four arms which point to the four corners of the earth.



Lakshmi is also known as Sri, She is the goddess of wealth, fortune, love, beauty and joy associated with Maya, has multiple meanings in Indian philosophies depending on the context.

Durga

The form of Durga represents Brahman's power that shows the right way to live in creation. She protects people from darkness and evil. The tiger represents lots of power and she is normally shown riding a tiger. She is said to hold a conch shell which has the sound of creation.

She has tons and tons of weapons which she uses to fight evil away from the earth to make it a better place for people.

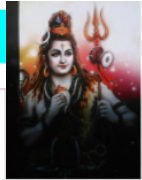
Durga is said to be female and is shown wearing red to symbol action which shows that she is always taking care of taking evil away.

Goddess of wealth and prosperity

Lakshmi is the Hindu goddess of wealth and luck. Hindus worship her mostly on Diwali offering food hoping they will be blessed.

She wears red and gold which symbolises the riches she is believed to give out.

She often sits on top of a lotus flower which symbolises that she is a beautiful being in a dirty world, just like the beautiful lotus flower stays on top of the murky water it grows in.



shiva



Shiva represents the aspect of Brahman that continuously creates, preserves, destroy and then recreates the universe. The river Ganges is coming out of Shiva's head because it represents being free from sin. If Shiva has opened his eyes wide then a new cycle of creation starts. If Shiva closes his eyes then he destroys creation. Shiva holds a trident to use as a weapon. Shiva's right hand is in a position that signifies blessing. Shiva is the Supreme Lord who creates, protects and transforms the universe.



Year 4 started their world faith topic in RE this week. We are going to be learning about Hinduism and our first lesson was to find out about some of the different Hindu gods and goddesses. We learnt that Hindus may worship different deities, but that they believe in one supreme being, Brahman. Each deity is a different expression of Brahman.

VISHNU

VISHNU IS THE PRESERVER OF THE WORLD

HE HAS THE POWER TO RESTORE THE BALANCE OF GOOD AND EVIL

VISHNU LIVES IN PARAN PARAN THE SUPREME ABODE

VISHNU COMES TO EARTH IN 9 AVATARS

VISHNU USES HIS WEAPONS TO DEFEAT EVIL

Hinduism is the world's third largest religion. It has followers in many countries but most live in India, where the religion started. Hinduism is over 4,000 years old.

The Hindu religion developed over a long period of time across a very large area, collecting together the beliefs of many groups of people.

These are examples of Murti. Murti is a general term for an image, statue or idol of a deity or mortal in Hindu culture. A murti is not a god, but it is a shape or embodiment of a god.

SHIVA FACT FILE

Shiva continuously creates, preserves, destroys and then recreates the universe. Shiva is the God of mercy and compassion.

Shiva is one of the three main gods in Hinduism and is a deity.

Shiva is known as the destroyer god because he removes all evil from the world.

The half-open eyes represent that the cycle of life is happening. The open eyes mean the beginning of the creation and the closed eyes means the end.

In images of Shiva, there is a river coming out of his head and legend has it that if you bathe in the right way and right time you will be free from all sins.

He holds a 3 prong trident which is a weapon he uses to destroy Gnashe.

Shiva is known to have untamed passion, which leads him to extremes in behaviour. Sometimes he is an ascetic, abstaining from all worldly pleasures. At others he is a hedonist.

If a person bathes in the Ganges at the right time they will be free of sin.

Shiva's hand is in a position that signifies blessing!

Shiva wears a tiger skin. Shiva holds a three-pronged trident, this is a weapon.

The snake is coiled around Shiva three times representing the past, present and future-time in cycles.

Shiva's eyes are open new cycle of creation. Shiva's closed eyes destroy creation.