

## 2.7 What do Hindus believe God is like?

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 about a man called **Svetaketu**

'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."

Three of the most significant forms of **Brahman** are **Brahma**, **Shiva** and **Vishnu**. These gods are key aspects of Brahman, the **Ultimate Reality**. The word '**trimurti**' means 'three forms'. In the trimurti, Brahma is the **Creator**, Vishnu is the **Preserver** and Shiva is the **Destroyer**.

In a Hindu temple, there are no images of Brahman. However, there are many images of gods and goddesses, which are aspects of the Divine One.



**Brahma** is the creator of the world and all creatures. He is usually shown with four heads.

**Vishnu** is the preserver of the world. His role is to return to the Earth in troubled times and restore the balance of god and evil. He has blue skin and four arms.

**Shiva** the destroyer of the universe. Shiva destroys the universe in order to recreate it. Shiva has blue skin, a third eye and carries a trident.

## RE Knowledge Organiser - Year 3 - Hinduism

### Key Vocabulary

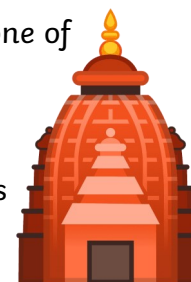
|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Brahman</b> | One supreme God - Brahman. Brahman is present everywhere and there is a part of Brahman in everyone. Brahman takes many forms, especially in the three forms of the Trimurti.*                                                         |
| <b>Karma</b>   | The key ideas in Hinduism show good ways to live. If Hindus can gather good karma, then moral action in this life can lead to a better reincarnation in the next life.                                                                 |
| <b>Krishna</b> | An avatar of the god, Vishnu, and a supreme God in his own right.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Ganesha</b> | The elephant-headed god in Hinduism. He is the son of Shiva and Parvati. Ganesha is a very popular god in Hinduism, and was one of the most worshipped. Hindu tradition states that Ganesha is a god of wisdom, success and good luck. |
| <b>Diwali</b>  | Diwali means "row of lights", and celebrates the story of Rama and Sita's return home from 14 years of exile. It also marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year.                                                                       |

The **aum** (or om) symbol is an important part of Hindu worship.

Hindu **Murtis** are statues of deities like this one of Ganesha.



A Hindu temple is called a **Mandir**.



\*Take care not to confuse Brahman with an 'n' and Brahma!