



Religion	Hindu
Denomination	n/a
Question answered:	What symbols are important to you? (KS1 Q1)
Key concepts, questions, and outcomes:	Symbols, communication, God Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions? Does everyone believe the same things about God? Recognise and give simple accounts of the core beliefs. Symbols communicate beliefs that are otherwise hard to explain.
Key teaching points:	Hindus have many different symbols and there are different ways of being a Hindu. Symbols help Hindus to make sense of life. Symbols can help people to understand difficult ideas.
Prior knowledge:	Pupils need to know what a symbol is and have experienced a range of familiar symbols. Pupils need to know that Hindus believe in one God (Brahman) but see God in many different forms. They do not worship lots of gods. Hindus express their beliefs in many different ways.

Core Vocabulary:			
Coconut	The rough, hairy fruit of the palm tree	Cycle of life	Most Hindus believe that life is a continuous cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth
Chakra	The wheel of life. There are many ways that this symbol is used in Hindu traditions	Nirvana	The final escape from the cycle of life when humans become one with God
Lotus	A flower that grows in muddy water	Lakshmi	Female deity associated with wealth. She is the consort of Vishnu

Summary of answers:
<p>Each of these speakers focuses on a different symbol: the coconut, the chakra or wheel and the lotus flower.</p> <p>The coconut, used in many Hindu ceremonies and festivals represents the human condition – rough and unpleasant on the outside, but pure and white on the inside. A human being in tune with God will be able to withstand external challenges and yet remain pure on the inside.</p> <p>The Chakra or wheel symbolises the cycle of life. Most Hindus believe that the ultimate aim of human life is to escape the cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth.</p> <p>The third speaker talks about the way that the Lotus flower, connected with Lakshmi, the deity associated with prosperity, grows from the dirt and mud but blossoms into a beautiful flower. She relates this to human beings overcoming the struggles of life and learning from the past.</p>

Next Steps:
<p>Visit a Hindu mandir either in person or virtually and look for the different symbols talked about. Look at a range of symbols used in the Hindu tradition and look for similarities and differences between them and other symbols the pupils are familiar with.</p> <p>Focus on the coconut and the lotus flower and relate that to how the pupils overcome difficulties and challenges.</p> <p>If possible, interview some more Hindus about the symbols that they think are important to them.</p>