Mandir

A special place for Hindus to worship.

Puja

Act of worship for Hindus.

Special statues or images of Hindu gods and goddesses.

Shrine

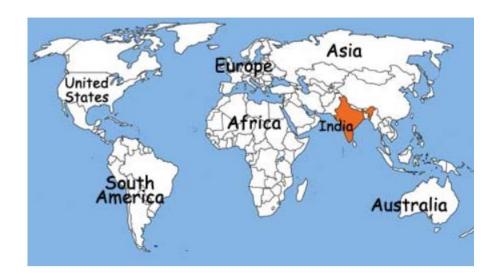
A holy place to pray.

The most important symbol for Hindus.

The largest Hindu temple complex in the world is in New Delhi in India and is in the Guinness World Record Book!







Special Places for Hindus

Hindus can worship at home or in a **mandir**.

In a mandir, Hindus can perform puja.

In a **mandir**, there are **shrines** and lots of **murtis** for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the **murtis**.

Key Vocabulary	
Brahman	There are many Hindu Gods but Brahman is the supreme God.
Dharma	Means to do the right thing with good behaviour.
Karma	People are rewarded or punished for the things they have done in their last life.
Sanatan Dharma	Hinduism is a complete way of life.
Arti	Waving of lighted lamps in front of a God to be worshipped.
Bhajans	Hindu songs sung during worship.

Holi festival celebrating the start of Spring. People smear each other in colour.



River Ganges The River Ganges is the holiest river for Hindus.

Kumbh Mela

Once every 12 years, millions of people share in ritual bathing at the Kumbh Mela festival where the waters of the Ganges and Yamuna combine.





Answers to important questions

- Where do most Hindus live in the world? India—there are about 1 billion Indians that are Hindus. Most countries in the world have Hindus living in them. In the UK there are about 1 million Hindus (out of a total population of about 67 million).
- What are the Hindu holy books? There are many different types of holy texts in Hinduism. Possibly most sacred are the Vedas and these guide people in their daily lives and are written in the Sanskrit language.