

# What do Hindus believe God is like?

## Wonderful words

**Hindu:** a follower of Hinduism, sometimes referred to as Sanatan Dharma, the eternal teaching

**Brahman:** a formless, ultimate reality, one energy or consciousness in the universe, the source of everything ★

**Deity:** Brahman channeled into different forms

**Namaste:** bowing slightly and putting hands together

**Shiva:** the destroyer of things so new things can begin

**Aum:** the sacred symbol that describes Brahman; the first sound of creation

**Atman;** the spark of Brahman in every living creature

**Lakshmi:** the deity of wealth and prosperity

**Vishnu:** the sustainer of all living things

**Brahma:** the creator of things who created the universe, people and creatures

## So how does it all work?

Aum



Brahma



Vishnu



Shiva



Lakshmi



## Important information

The Hindu tradition is diverse and ever changing and according to the 2021 Census, 1.7% of the population of the UK are Hindus.

The ultimate reality is known as **Brahman** who is the source of everything in the universe. The **atman** is a spark of Brahman in every living creature and the **namaste** welcome is a way of recognising the spark of Brahman inside every living creature. The **Aum** symbol represents Brahman but also the first sound in the creation of the universe.

Brahman can be found in many different forms, known as **deities**. For many Hindus the three most important deities are known as the **Trimurti**. **Brahma** is the creator deity who is responsible for the creation of the universe. **Vishnu** is the preserver deity who maintains the universe and **Shiva** is the destroyer deity so that new things can begin in the cycle of life and death.

Another important deity for Hindus is **Lakshmi**, at Diwali many Hindus will put statues of Lakshmi outside their homes in the hope that she will visit the home and bring the family good fortune for the new year.