

Caroline Haslett Primary School – RE

**Topic: Unit 1 - God;
Brahman; Trimurti; Murtis;
Avatars**

Year 4

**Do Murtis help Hindus
understand God?**

Knowledge

Murtis are colourful figures and pictures of the gods and goddesses.



Brahma is the creator of the world and all creatures. He is usually shown with four heads.
Vishnu returns to the earth in troubled times and restores the balance of good and evil. He has blue skin and four arms.
Shiva destroys the universe in order to recreate it. Shiva has blue skin, a third eye and carries a trident.



Saraswati is the goddess of learning. She is the consort of Brahma.
Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and beauty. She is the consort of Vishnu.
Shakti is a goddess of energy. She is the consort of Shiva.

Activities

- Read the story of the blind men and the elephant; explore the om symbol and sound.
- Explore various deities, looking at the Murtis and read the appropriate stories – Krishna, Durga, Shiva, Ganesha.
- Look at how the Murtis are used in worship – Get someone in or visit a Mandir.
- Look at the avatars of Vishnu and explore what Hindus learn about God from the avatars.

Skills

- Describe three Hindu deities/murtis and what they reveal about God
- Use the correct words to describe four ways in which Hindus use Murtis in worship
- Describe some symbols of that Hindus use when they worship at home or in the Mandir
- Investigate why Hindus choose to worship particular Murtis

Vocabulary

- **Aum** – the sound and symbol for the universe
- **Avatars** – incarnation of a god in a human (or animal) form on Earth.
- **Brahma** – the creator of the world and all creatures.
- **Brahman** – the Ultimate Reality – the source of all life in the universe and the basis of all reality and existence.
- **Consort** – wife
- **Deities** – gods or goddesses
- **Hinduism** – an Indian religion and way of life
- **Mandir** – Hindu temple of spiritual worship
- **Murtis** – figures and pictures of the deities found at Hindu shrines and temples
- **Shiva** – the destroyer of the universe
- **Trimurti** – the three gods Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva
- **Vishnu** – the preserver of the world

