

# Learning About World Religions: Hinduism

***What are the origins and beliefs of Hinduism?***

## PREVIEW

Think about how religion affects life in the United States today. In the box below draw a picture that represents one way that religion influences the way of life of Americans in the 21st century. Then write a sentence explaining what you drew.



**READING NOTES**

**Key Content Terms**

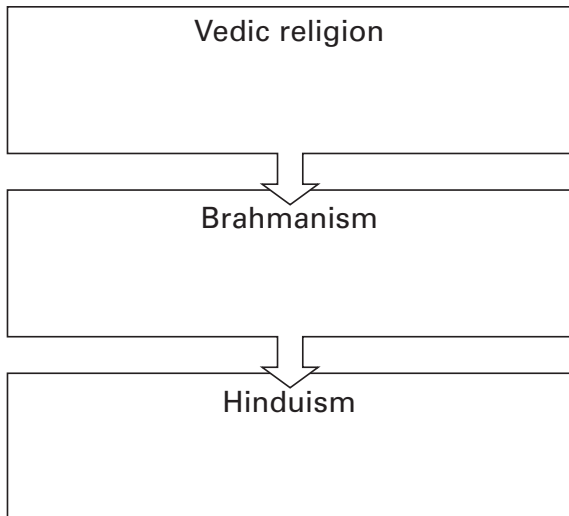
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

Hinduism	dharmā
Vedas	karma
Sanskrit	reincarnation
Brahmanism	pilgrimage
caste	

**Section 2**

1. Who founded the religion of Hinduism?

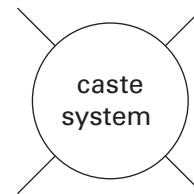
2. Complete the flowchart below by providing descriptive details in each box.



3. How does the chart help explain the relationship of the Vedic religion, Brahmanism, and Hinduism?

**Section 3**

1. Use the spoke diagram below to show the social structure of the caste system. Use the spokes to identify and describe each of the four social classes, or castes, described in the Vedas.

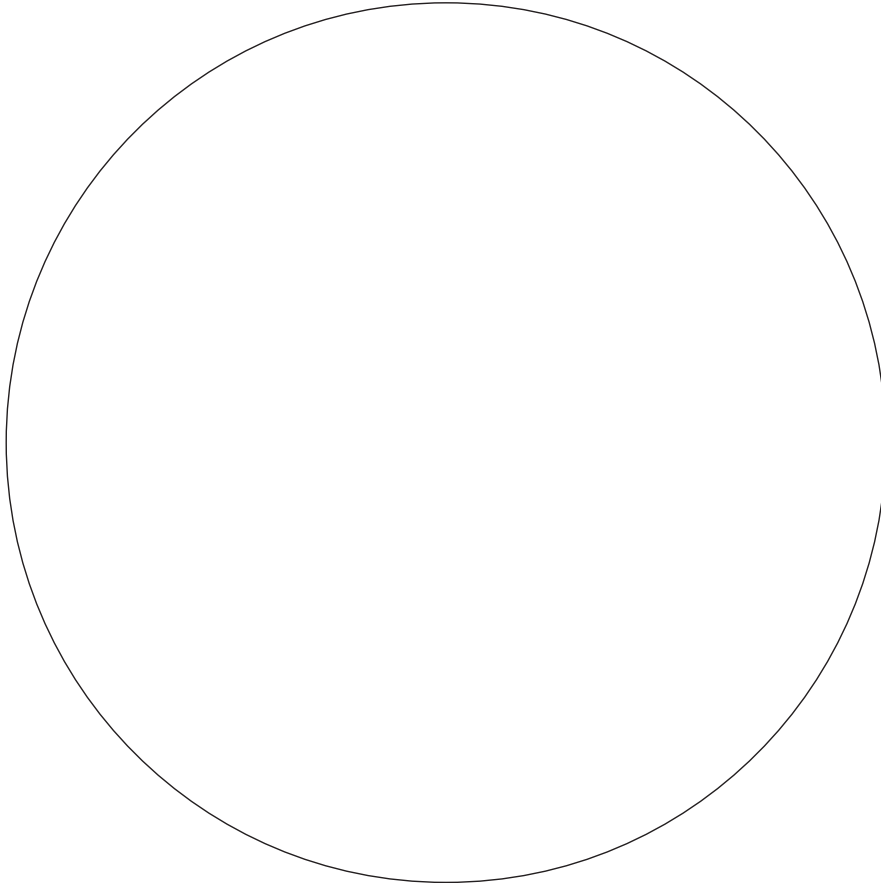


2. How did the caste system change over time? You may either answer in sentences below or modify your spoke diagram above (label any changes you make).

3. In what ways did the caste system affect life in ancient India?

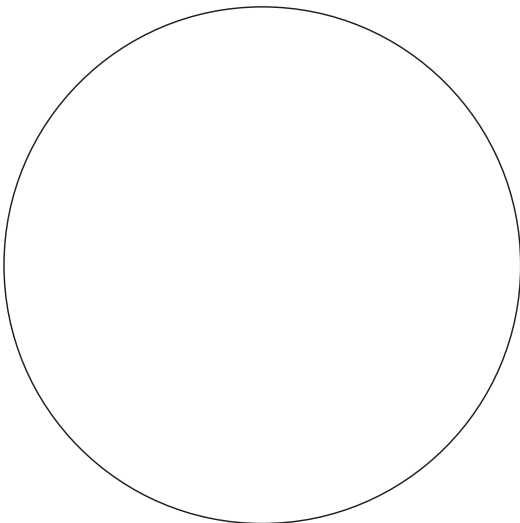
**Section 4**

1. Record three key points that describe some Hindus' beliefs about Brahman.
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  -
2. Followers of the ancient Vedic religion and Brahmanism communicated with their deities by . . .
  
3. List three details that describe Hindu temples.
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4. In the circle, draw a simple visual or symbol that illustrates how time is expressed in many Indian traditions.



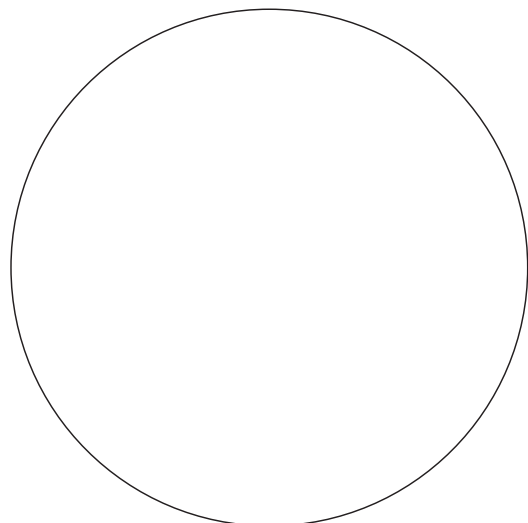
**Section 5**

1. Record three key points that describe Hindu beliefs about deities.
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2. One effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
3. Another effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
4. In the circle, draw a simple visual or symbol that illustrates these beliefs about deities.



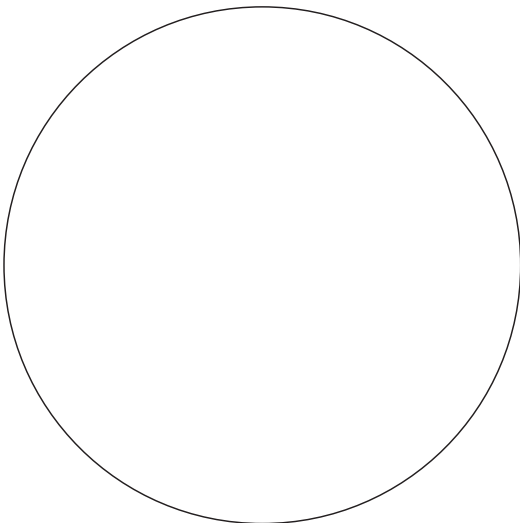
**Section 6**

1. Record three key points that describe Hindu beliefs about dharma.
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2. One effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
3. Another effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
4. In the circle, draw a simple visual or symbol that illustrates these beliefs about dharma.



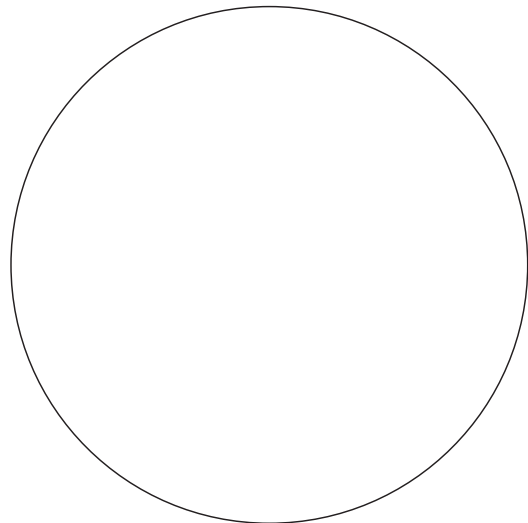
**Section 7**

1. Record three key points that describe Hindu beliefs about karma.
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2. One effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
  
  
3. Another effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
  
  
4. In the circle, draw a simple visual or symbol that illustrates these beliefs about karma.



**Section 8**

1. Record three key points that describe Hindu beliefs about samsara.
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2. One effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
  
  
3. Another effect that these beliefs have on life in India is . . .
  
  
  
  
  
4. In the circle, draw a simple visual or symbol that illustrates these beliefs about samsara.



## PROCESSING

Compose an acrostic poem for the word Hinduism. Follow these guidelines as you compose your poem, using the letters and space below.

- Include a sentence for each letter in the word Hinduism. A sample sentence is provided below.
- Use all of the Key Content Terms at least once and underline them in your completed poem.
- Summarize three ways Hindu beliefs have influenced life in India.

**H**indus are expected to follow a common dharma, or set of values, such as sharing food with others and practicing nonviolence.

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