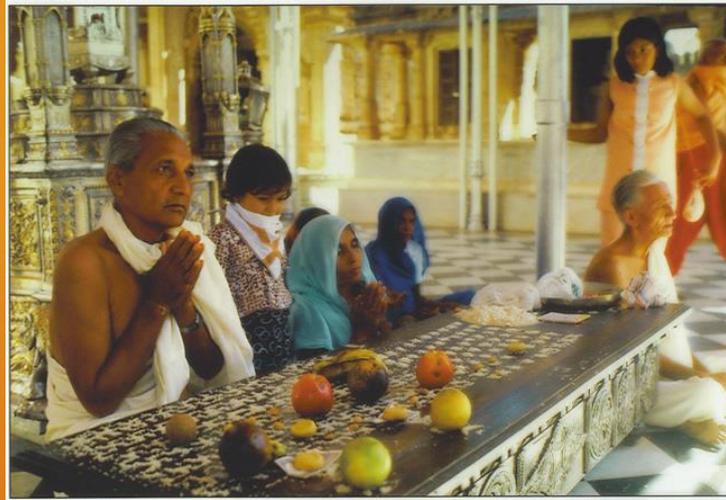


Ancient India

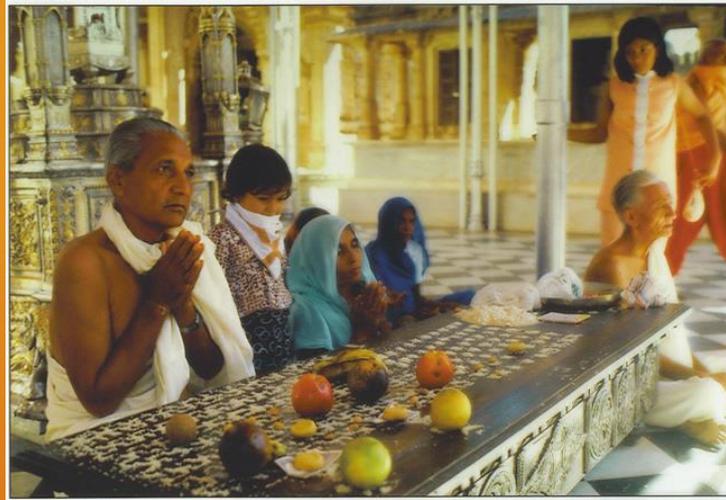
Creating a Mandala of Hindu Beliefs

Hinduism





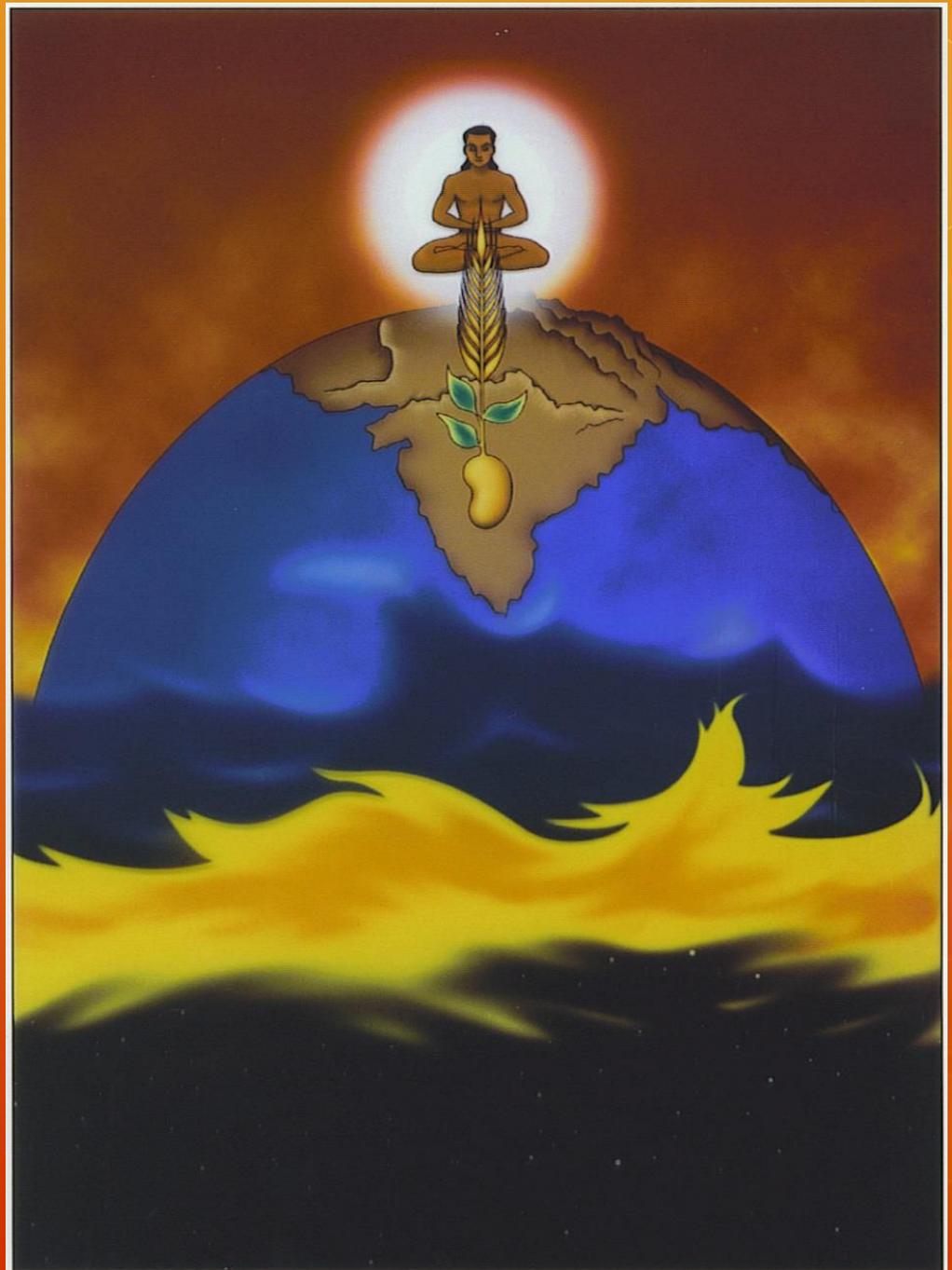
- Hinduism is an ancient religion whose origins predate recorded history
- It has no single human founder and has developed over thousands of years
- It's most sacred scriptures are the **Vedas**, which means "knowledge" in Sanskrit, the ritual language of Hinduism
- The Vedas began as an oral tradition, and modern scholars have speculated that they date back as far as 6500 B.C.E.
- Historians believe that the Vedas were written down around 1000 B.C.E. or earlier.
- Other elements of Hinduism - such as sacred symbols and the worship of certain Gods - can also be traced back to the seventh century B.C.E.



- The word Hindu was first used by the ancient Persians to describe the practices and beliefs of people who lived east of the river Sindhu, or the Indus River.
- Hindus call their religion "Sanatana Dharma" (the eternal religion) or "Vedic Dharma" (the religion of knowledge).
- Over the millennia Hinduism has continued to evolve, and in modern times it incorporates a wide variety of religious beliefs and practices. Hinduism has historically been tolerant of other religions, believing that all religions can be legitimate paths to God. As of 1997, there were nearly one billion Hindus in the world, more than 900 million of them living in India.

Brahman

This is a symbolic representation of the individual soul (atman) separating from the Supreme God (Brahman), which is depicted as the cosmos



Brahman



- Brahman is the name for Hinduism's one Supreme God or Spirit.
- Brahman creates, maintains, destroys, and recreates the universe in a never-ending cycle.
- Everything in the world, including each human soul, or atman, is a part of Brahman.
- Just like a single drop of water in a great ocean, the atman is both separate from and one with Brahman (God).
- A Hindu's spiritual goal is to unite his or her soul with Brahman

Brahman

- Using the information on the following slide, write the main beliefs in the box
- Then, make up your own symbol that represents the Hindu belief

Student Handout 2.10

Basic Hindu Beliefs

Hindu belief	Key points about the belief	Symbol for the belief
Brahman		
Multiple Gods		
Dharma		
Karma		
Samsara		

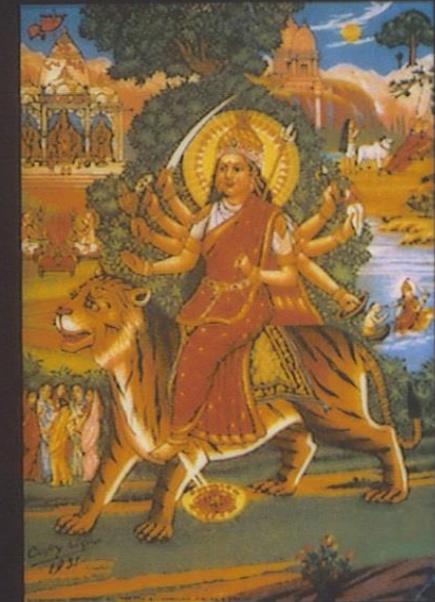
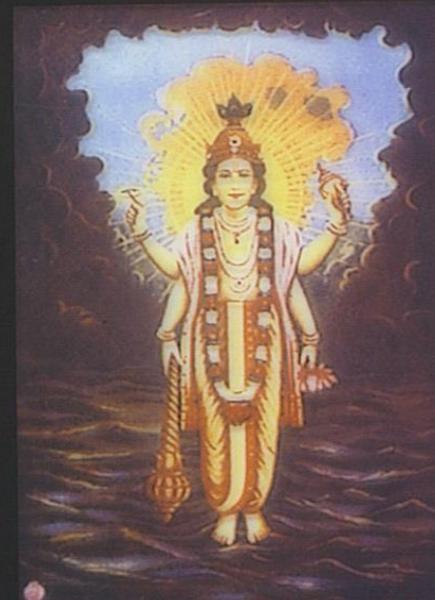
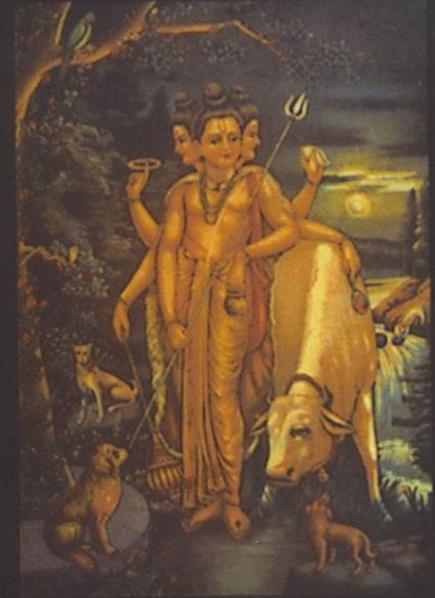
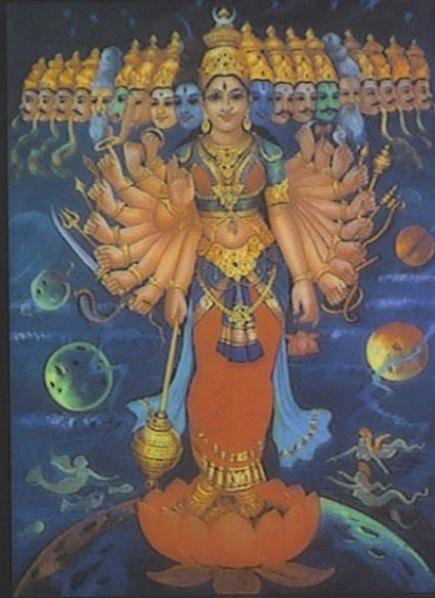


Brahman

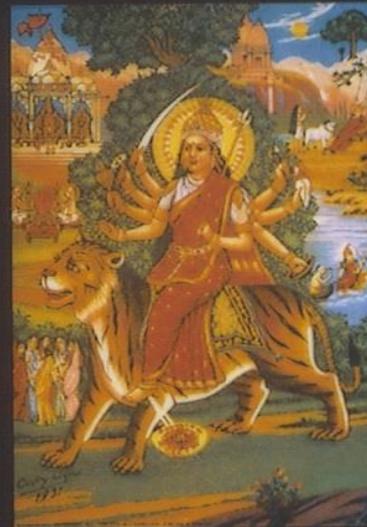
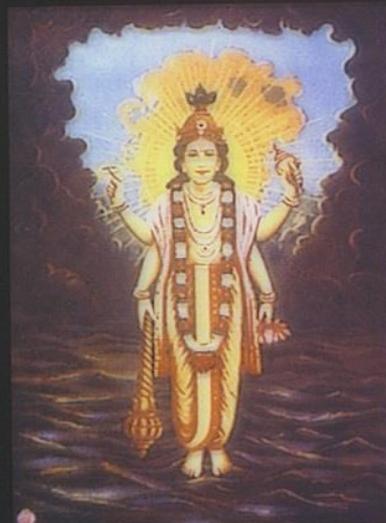
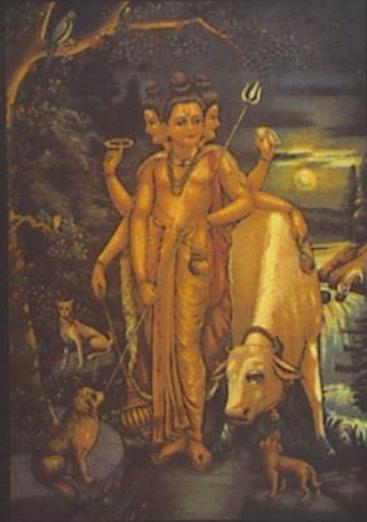
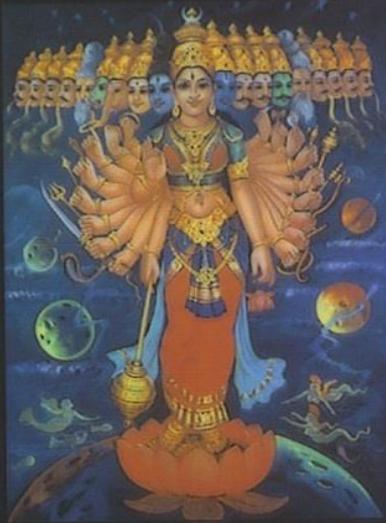
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Multiple Gods

- *In this picture are four Hindu Gods and Goddesses. From the upper left, moving clockwise, we see*
 - *The Goddess Sri Vishwaroopa, shown here as containing all the Gods within herself*
 - *The God Brahman, the creator*
 - *The Goddess Durga, the wife of the God Shiva*
 - *The God Vishnu, the preserver.*



Multiple Gods



- Hindus worship many Gods and Goddesses, but they believe the Gods are all aspects of the one Supreme God, Brahman.
- Hindus believe that the multiple Gods represent the countless different qualities and powers of Brahman.
- Some Hindu Gods have human-like personalities, and others represent such things as success, good luck, and war.
- Each Hindu person or family may be especially devoted to a particular God or Goddess.
- Three of the most important Gods are Vishnu, Shiva, and Brahma (not to be confused with Brahman).

Multiple Gods

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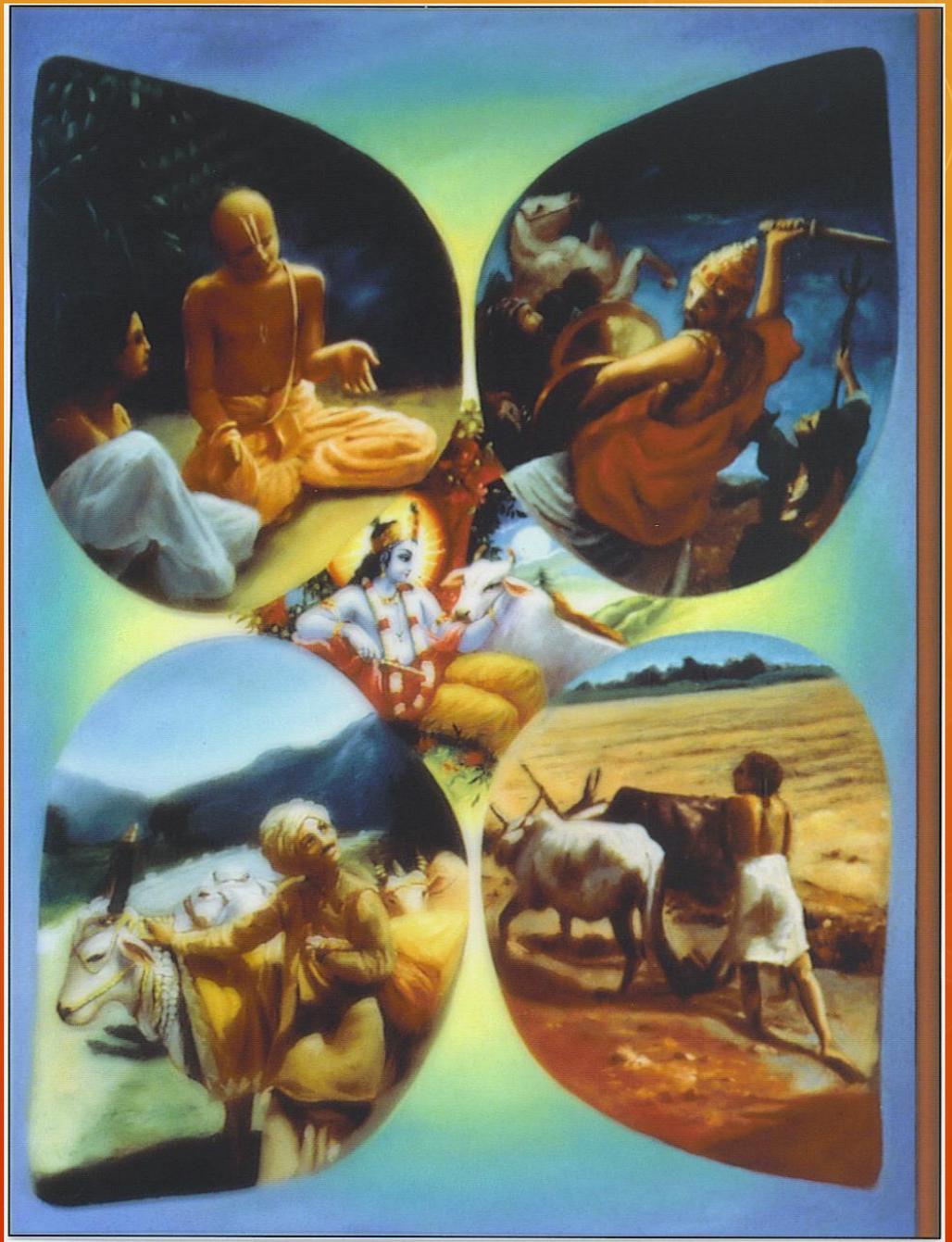


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Dharma

This picture shows people performing the duties of their varna, or class, thereby honoring the Hindu God Vishnu in the center. From upper left, moving clockwise, these classes include the brahmins (religious scholars), the kshatriyas (lawmakers and warriors), the shudras (laborers), and the vaishyas (merchants).



Dharma

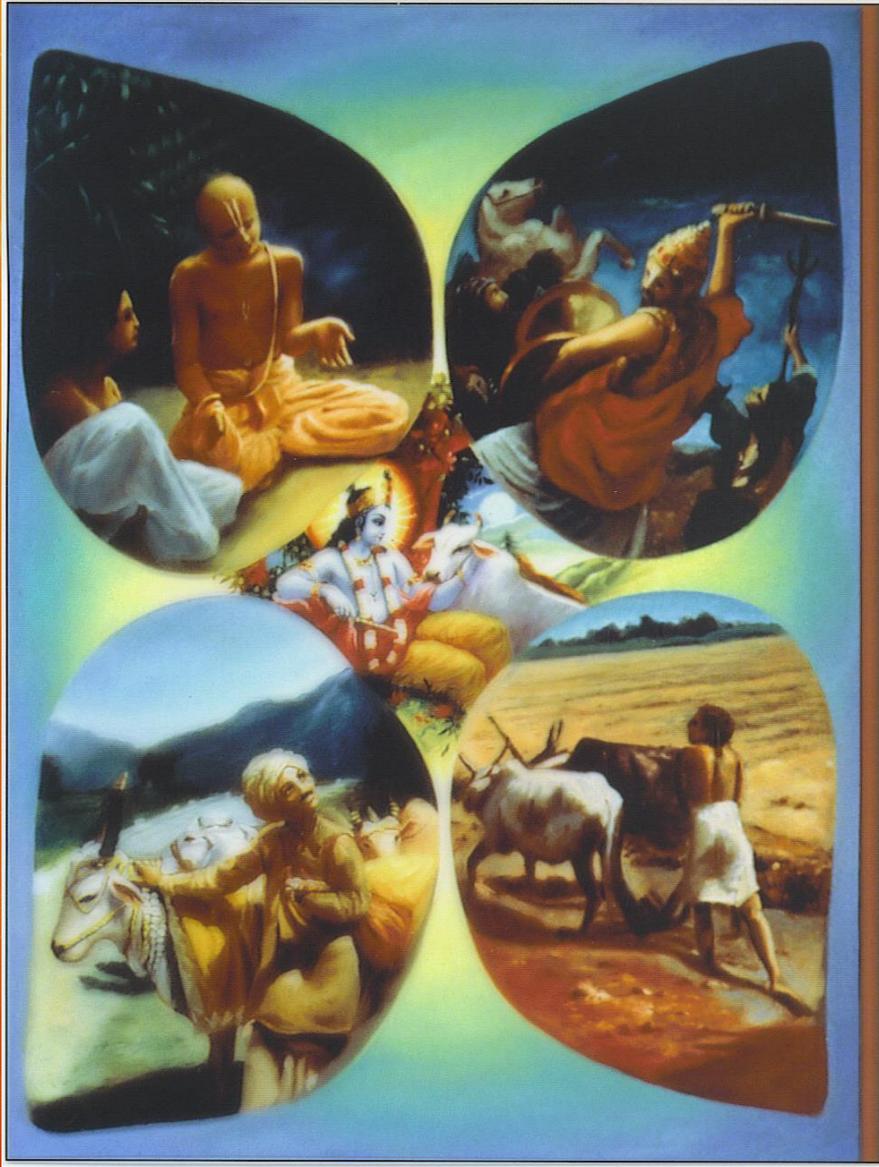
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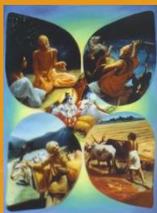
Basic Hindu Beliefs

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Dharma



- Dharma means "to hold or support."
- Part of dharma relates to sacred (holy) duty or moral responsibility. It is the system of rules and values Hindus follow in their everyday life.
- Another way to think of dharma is as "the right thing to do" in any situation.
- Hindus believe in a universal dharma that includes values all Hindus accept and practice, such as nonviolence.
- Hindus also believe they have an individual dharma that they should follow.
- People's dharmas are determined by different things, such as personality, age, sex, and inherited social class, or varna.
- Hinduism teaches that when people follow their dharma, they contribute to the harmony and balance of society and the universe.

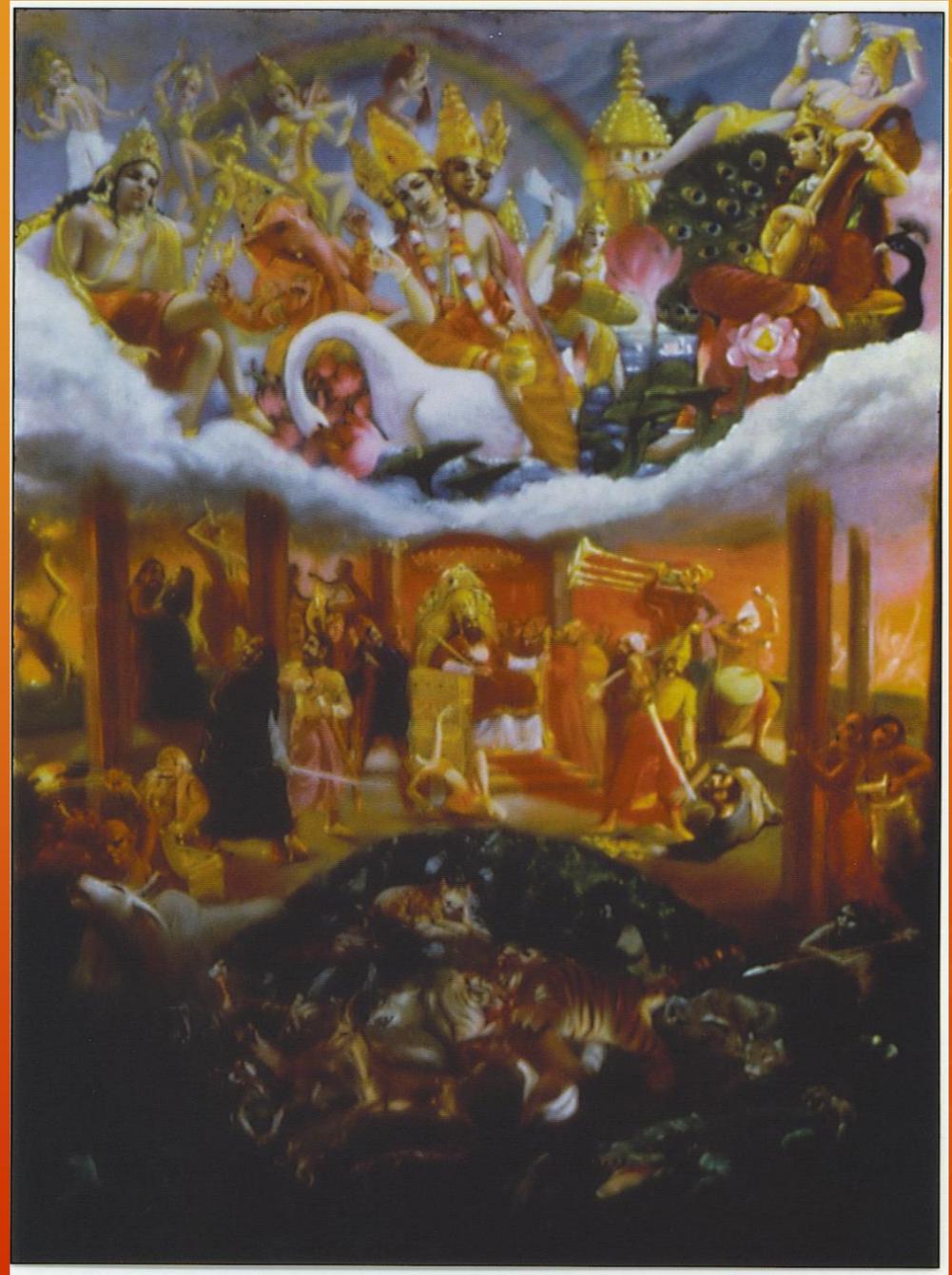


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Karma

This picture shows the different levels of existence into which people can be reborn, depending on their past actions, or karma.



Karma



- Hindus believe that karma is the sum of good and bad actions a human soul, or atman, carries with it from life to life.
- They believe that when people die, the soul leaves the body and is reborn into another body.
- Hinduism teaches that people's good and bad actions in one life influence their destiny in future lives.
- In Hinduism, karma determines whether a soul is reborn as a human or an animal, into a rich family or a poor one, and some of the things a person will experience in each lifetime.
- For example, Hindus believe that a person who steals in this life may be robbed in a future life, or that someone who harms animals may be reborn as an animal.

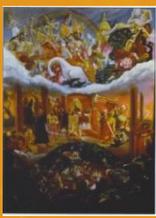
Karma

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Student Handout 2.10

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Samsara

This picture shows a human's progress through life stages, ending with death and then rebirth in a different body.



Samsara



- In Hinduism, samsara is the continuous cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.
- The process of rebirth is sometimes referred to as reincarnation.
- The goal of a Hindu's life is to be released from samsara and united with the Supreme God, Brahman.
- Hindus call this release moksha and it is achieved after a person's soul has lived through many lifetimes.
- Hindus achieve moksha by following the path of dharma, balancing their karma (both good and bad actions), worshipping the Gods faithfully, and having a direct and personal experience of God by following certain spiritual practices.

Samsara

- Using the information on the following slide, write the main beliefs in the box
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Student Handout 2.10

Basic Hindu Beliefs

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Mandalas

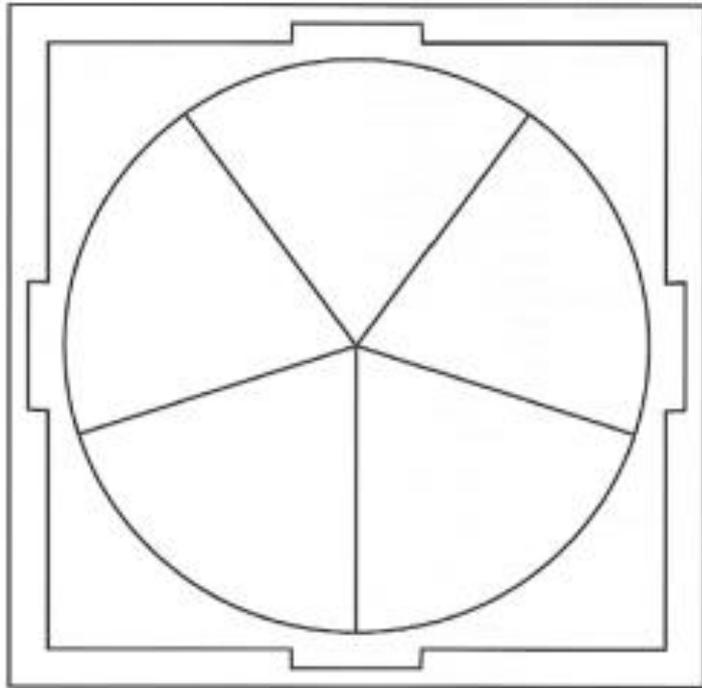


- Mandala means “circle” in Sanskrit
- They originated with Hinduism, but are also used in Buddhism.
- Mandalas can be simple or very complex
- They symbolize the cyclical nature of the universe
- On the next slide, you will see Buddhist monks creating a mandala out of colored sand

Now you will create your own Mandala!

A Mandala of Hindu Beliefs

Directions: In the space below, use your ideas from **Student Handout 2.1C** to create a mandala of basic Hindu beliefs. Below your mandala, write a four- or five-sentence explanation of how the placement of your symbols reveals the relationships among the beliefs.



- Draw each of your symbols you created in the triangular areas. This is your final draft, so make it neat!
- Color your mandala
- Cut it out around the outside square

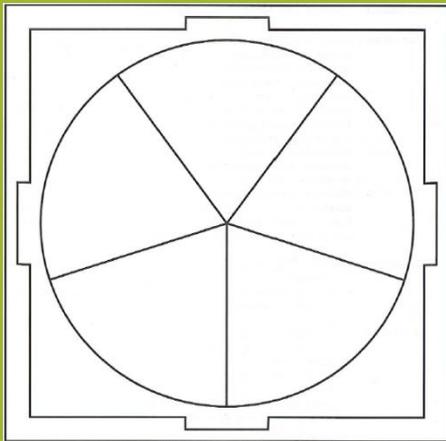
Here is an example of a Mandala



- Just a note: it would have been better if I had labeled the symbols so you would know which was which
- Clockwise from the top is Brahman, Multiple Gods, Dharma, Karma, Samsara

Now you will create your own Mandala!

Hindu Beliefs



Brahman -----
Multiple Gods-----
Dharma-----
Karma-----
Samsara-----

Name

- Choose a piece of construction paper. Write the title "Hindu Beliefs" at the top
- Glue your mandala just below your title
- On the small blank paper you've been given, write a 1 or 2 sentence summary of each Hindu belief. Then glue it below your mandala
- Write your name at the bottom right corner

Here is an example of the finished project

