

Summer 2 Week 10 RE

Lesson 3

Can I understand the importance of a mandir to a Hindu?

Recap - What is a place of worship?

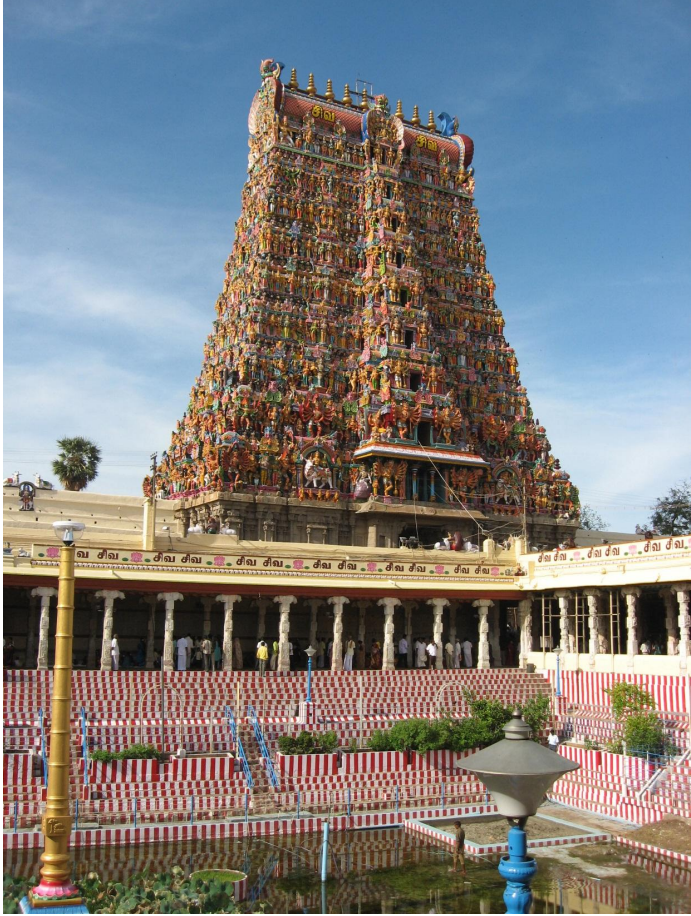
A **place of worship** is a building or space where people go to practice and learn about their faith.

Today, we are going to look at Hinduism and their place of worship - a mandir.

A Hindu place of worship is a **mandir**.
Just like churches, mosques and
synagogues, not all mandirs around the
world look the same...

Swaminarayan
Akshardham, in New
Delhi India, is the
largest Hindu mandir in
the world.





The Meenakshi Amman Temple is one of the most important Indian Hindu temples with 14 towers!



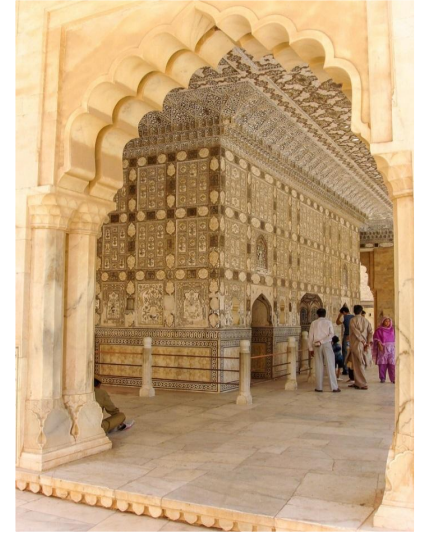
Prambanan is the largest temple in Indonesia.



Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, in London, is a busy and exciting place. As well as being used for worship, birth, wedding and death ceremonies, it is also a place where visitors can go and discuss and strengthen their faith, take part in meditation classes and yoga.

Do they all look the same on the inside?

At a Hindu temple, different parts of the building have a special meaning, for example, the central shrine inside the mandir represents the heart of the Hindu worshipper, and if the temple has a tower this symbolises a connection with heaven.



Important features of a Hindu mandir

Shoe Rack

A place to store shoes before entering the mandir.



Central Shrine

This is the heart of the temple to represent the heart of the worshipper. It is usually at the front of the temple.

Murti

A murti is a statue of God, or a god or goddess.



Important features of a Hindu mandir

Aum

This is the Hindu symbol. You may see this if you are ever visiting a Hindu temple.

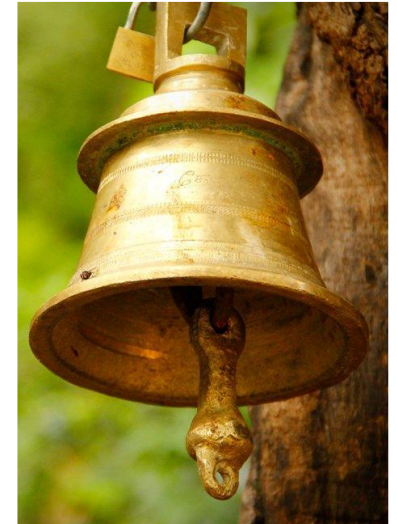


Vedas

These are the ancient Hindu texts. They are kept safe in a special case.

Bell

Worshippers ring the bell before entering to let God know they have arrived.



Why do people go to a Hindu Mandir?

Worship, or 'puja', takes place here. Hindus can come at any time to be peaceful, pray and sing religious songs.



Each mandir is dedicated to a god and inside will be a shrine to that god. Offerings or 'prasad' such as flowers, fruit, water, milk, nuts or sweets are made. Incense is burned to make the temple feel special and during worship, Hindus chant the names of their favourite gods and goddesses.

Hindu worship at home.

Like Buddhists, Hindus can worship both at the temple and at home.

Making offerings to the gods is something that can be done at home too.

In a Hindu home there may be a shrine where offerings can be made and prayers are spoken. The shrine could be as big as a room, a small corner or a statue.



The following are ways to show respect in a Hindu mandir. Similar to the rules of the gurdwara for Sikhs.

- Before entering the mandir you must have a wash, make sure you are wearing clean clothes and remove your shoes.
- You must make offerings to the gods.
- Bow to show respect to the gods.

Your task today is to label the important features of a Hindu mandir.