

Year 4 Hindu Dharma

Year 4 Key Question (to be used all year): How should we live our lives?

Focus Question (for this investigation):

Do I think that good should always win? Why

Search for personal meaning

Why is light so important to humans? Does good always overcome evil?
Where do we see goodness in the world?

Shared human experience

Pupils should be able to describe why Diwali is such a popular Hindu festival and the impact that the festival might have on the life of believers.

Living religious traditions

Beliefs and values

Pupils will investigate the story of Rama and Sita and suggest what a Hindu might learn from this story. They should be able to retell the story and identify what it teaches Hindus about how to live and the idea that good overcomes evil.

What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali?

Pupils should learn about the Hindu deity Vishnu and Hindu beliefs about avatars. They should be encouraged to make links between the story of Rama and Sita and the belief that as an avatar of Vishnu, it is Rama's role to destroy evil.



What does 'goodness' mean to me?

Search for personal meaning

Pupils will explore the symbolism of light in the Diwali festivities. They should be able to make links between the use of light, the story of Rama and Sita, and the message of good overcoming evil.



What does 'goodness' mean to me?

What makes a good story? Why do so many stories tell of a battle between good and evil? Is life sometimes like a battle between good and evil?

What gives me hope during difficult times?

Focus Question: What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali?

This unit gives pupils the opportunity to revisit the story of Rama and Sita (they will have been introduced to this story in Y3) and to explore the theme of good overcoming evil – just as light overcomes darkness.

Pupils should deepen their understanding of Hindu beliefs about God by learning about Rama as an avatar of Vishnu. They should be able to connect this with the Diwali theme – Rama is a deity and therefore represents goodness. As an avatar of Vishnu, it is his role to uphold dharma and fight evil. This is exemplified in the story of Rama and Sita which is celebrated at Diwali. Pupils should know that Diwali is a popular Hindu festival and be able to explain the deeper meaning of festival celebrations such as the lighting of diva lamps, fireworks, decorating homes with rangoli patterns.

They should reflect on the symbolism of light within all human cultures, and consider how light might be a universal symbol of goodness and hope.

Field of Enquiry	Possible Teaching Ideas
Shared Human Experience 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how the theme of good overcoming evil is often a theme in stories and films. Come up with a list of examples. Talk about whether or not this is the case in the real world or if it is simply an ideal in stories. List examples of where we might see 'goodness' in the world. Collect images that could be used as a symbol of goodness. Find examples of people who have overcome difficulties and could be described as sources of light, hope and goodness for others.

Beliefs and Values 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a children's version or comic book of the story of Rama and Sita (the Ramayana). Write a plot summary of the story and discuss how it develops and explores the theme of good overcoming evil. Explore the central characters of the plot – Rama, Sita, Lakshman, Ravanna, Hanuman, King Dasharatha – what might Hindus learn from each of these characters? Which characters might be good role models for Hindus and why? Learn about the deity Vishnu (the protector and preserver). Investigate Hindu beliefs about avatars – living forms of Vishnu who come to earth 1 times of trouble to defeat evil and restore dharma (pupils should have learned about dharma – religious duty – in Y3, but this will probably need to be revisited). How does Rama fulfil the role of avatar?
Living Religious Traditions 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate how Hindus in the UK celebrate Diwali. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpNNF4fB4g Look at a range of images of how light is used in Diwali celebrations. Explain why light is such an important part of the festivities. Create a class display about Diwali – focusing on the theme of light overcoming darkness, just as good overcomes evil. Make links between the religious traditions and celebrations of Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita.
Search for Personal Meaning 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss stories that have influenced them – what guidance/support/wisdom have they gained from stories? Create a collage of images of symbols of goodness. Discuss where they might see goodness in the world today. Share ideas and examples about things that give them hope in the world today. Discuss why having hope is so important. What sources of hope do they have in difficult times? Talk about the importance of light in their own lives – when are they most in need of light and why? What does light symbolise?

Y1 Learning - children will:			
* explore teachings about good and evil in the story of Rama and Sita * describe what moral guidance Hindus might gain from the story of Rama and Sita * make links between the actions of Rama and the belief that he is an avatar of Vishnu, appearing on earth to destroy evil and uphold dharma	* use subject specific language to describe how and why Hindus celebrate Diwali * explain the importance of light in the Diwali celebrations, and how this is a symbol of good overcoming evil	* discuss (with relevant examples) the importance of the belief that good overcomes evil * suggest people, words or stories that might be inspiring when trying to overcome difficulties in life	* reflect on their own concept of 'goodness' * discuss what gives them hope during difficult times
Beliefs and values	Living religious traditions	Shared human experience	Search for personal meaning