

## Hinduism Background Questions

1. Around what time period did Hinduism develop?
2. How many Hindus are there in the world today?
3. What people began the Hindu religion?
4. What are the *Vedas*?
5. The two major cities of Ancient India are called what?
6. Why could Hinduism be called a “varied religion”?
7. What is the meaning of the *Mysterious Beast* in the Land of the Blind story?
8. What is *Brahman*?
9. How does saltwater teach us about Brahman?
10. What is *Atman*?
11. What is *samsara* or reincarnation?
12. What is *Karma*?
13. What is *moksha*?
14. How can someone reach moksha?
15. What is *maya*?
16. Is Hinduism monotheistic or polytheistic?
17. What is *Vishnu*’s role?

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18. What is *Shiva's* role?
19. Who is *Brahma*?
20. What is an *avatar*?
21. What do *Rama* and *Sita* represent?
22. Who is *Hanuman*?
23. What is *Krishna* god of?
24. Why are cows considered sacred in India?
25. Who is *Shiva*?
26. Describe Shiva's appearance.
27. What do *Ganesha* and *Parvati* symbolize?
28. What is *Kali's* role?
29. What is *dharma*?
30. List and describe the four *varnas*.
31. What are the four stages of life as described by Hindu scripture.

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32. Describe the four types of yoga.

a. *Karma* –

b. *Bhakti* –

c. *Jnana* –

d. *Raja* –

33. When do Hindus go to the temple?

34. Where do most Hindus worship?

35. What types of objects would you find in a shrine?

36. Other than the Indus, what is another sacred river in India?

37. What do the following festivals celebrate?

a. *Divali* –

b. *Dassehra* –

c. *Holi* –

38. What language were the Vedas passed down in?