

Why do Dharmic religions look different around the world?

Religion and Worldviews | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2025-26

Theology

Hindu deities can be worshipped for different reasons:

- Personal beliefs
- Religious traditions
- Family customs



Hindu deities often signify specific traits or life situations allowing people to seek guidance, blessings or protection in those areas of life.

Buddhist practices: Buddhists may choose to practise the Buddha's teachings in different ways. This can be influenced by culture, tradition, scripture or personal preference.



Initiation: Many Sikhs choose to be initiated and become Amritdhari, wearing the five articles of faith and the Dastaar. Others do not choose to become initiated and practise their Sikhi identity in other ways.

Social Sciences

Some practices might represent belonging to a particular community; shared practices can be important to give some people a sense of belonging.

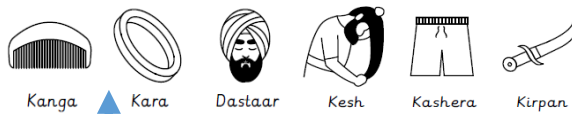
People from the same institutional worldview often hold the same key beliefs but may interpret and express them differently.

Some places are valued by certain people due to things that have happened there, scripture and historical events.

India's size and varied geography have led to a diverse array of belief systems throughout its regions.

In the past, people travelled far to spread their beliefs and learn from others, often leading to variations within worldviews.

More recently, people have moved to other parts of the world bringing with them their beliefs, culture and traditions.



Philosophy

Festivals of Light: Light can symbolise a variety of things including:

- The triumph of good over evil
- Enlightenment or awakening
- Knowledge
- Freedom
- Hope.



It is necessary to use a variety of sources to achieve a well-rounded representation of beliefs and practices. There is value in different interpretations of a source and no one interpretation is correct.

The same concept (e.g. equality) can be expressed in different ways. Some answers to questions can change over time

Vocabulary

Dharmic: Religious groups that originated in South Asia who have similar ideas about life and death.

Diversity: The quality of being varied.

Enlightenment: In Dharmic worldviews, gaining a very deep, spiritual understanding and breaking free from the cycle of reincarnation.

Initiated: When someone is formally introduced or welcomed into a new role.

Interpretation: An explanation or understanding of what something means.


Jain: A person who believes in non-violent living and that the universe has always existed without a creator god..

Liberation: The act of becoming free.

Why do Dharmic religions look different around the world?

Religion and Worldviews | Years 5 & 6 | Autumn Term 2025-26

Key Learning: To consider how culture, history, geography and tradition can influence religion and worldviews.

-  **1 Ho can God be linked to a place?**
Make links between deities and places to identify how this can influence different people's worship. Explain how the geography of India can affect some Hindu beliefs and discuss why some people from the Hindu worldview worship different deities. Locate some important religious places in India and discuss their significance.
- 2 What can it be like as a Hindu in the UK?**
Consider how some Hindus maintain their cultural identity in the UK, suggesting why there is diversity within Hindu practices and discussing how migration may affect the Hindu practices and traditions. List ways some Hindus feel a sense of belonging.
- 3 What does being Sikhi mean to different people?**
Reflect on what it means to be part of the Sikh community by exploring different personal experiences. Discuss what it means to become an initiated Sikh and list different ways a Sikh may feel part of the community. Explain what it means to be a Sikh to some people.
- 4 Why are festivals of light important in different worldviews?**
Explore the symbolism found in festivals of light from different worldviews, describing themes and explaining why different festivals of light are sometimes referred to by the same name.
- 5 How do some Buddhists practise beliefs in their daily lives?**
Compare the daily routines and responsibilities of a Buddhist monk and a lay Buddhist, including the influence of Buddhist teachings. Recognise why there are different interpretations of the Buddha's teachings and list similarities and differences between some Buddhist monks and laypeople.
- 6 Do all Buddhists practise in the same way?**
Make links and comparisons between different meditative practices performed by some Buddhists, appreciating how they can help some Buddhists achieve mindfulness. Explain why there are different ways of practising the same disciplines, exploring the benefits of a practice and making connections between different practices.