

Enquiry: Who is God to Sanatanis?

Theme: Brahman as one supreme being in everything and everywhere.

Learning Intention: I can start to explain the Sanatani belief in the Tri-murti and what each deity represents

I can apply this knowledge to the enquiry question

Bridge concept: Different parts of one person

Resources:

Jigsaw Charter

Jigsaw RE Journals

Owl

Activity Sheet

Key Vocabulary:

Aspect

Brahma

Brahman

character

creator

deity

destroyer

personality

preserver

role

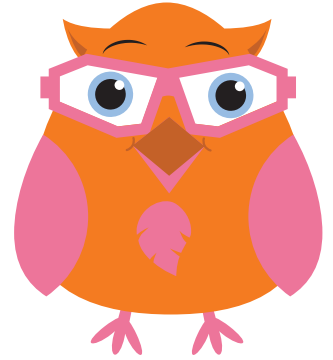
Shiva

supreme

Sanatana Dharma

Sanatani

Vishnu



Teaching and Learning

Jigsaw Charter

Slide 1: Remind children of the Jigsaw Charter (displayed on wall)

Connect our learning

Low stakes quiz in pairs on whiteboards or could be carried out verbally as some of the words are quite tricky for young children.

To revisit learning from last piece:

What is the Sanatani name for God? Brahman

What is Sanatani religion called? Sanatana Dharma

What is the name of the spark of God that Sanatanis believe is in everyone? Atman

Where do Sanatanis believe their God is? Everywhere

What did we put into the water to represent the Sanatani God? Salt

Open my mind

Slide 3: Picture of a triangle with the word "Brahman" in the middle

Ask the children to think about this in a similar way to their cubes. A triangle is made up of 3 sides. If Brahman is a supreme being with different sides to his character or personality, what might those sides be?

Ask me this...

What might be a personality or aspect of Brahman if he gives life to everything?

Tell me or show me

Slide 3: Learning Intentions

Show children the learning intentions. Explain that we are using a triangle today to help us to remember 3 parts of Brahman's personality or roles that Sanatanis believe are very important. Like a triangle which has 3 sides, this is called the **TRI** murti because it has 3 deities (representations of Brahman).

Ask the children what roles or jobs they think God needs to do. Make a list on a piece of flip-chart paper that can be kept for piece 4. What might be the 3 main roles of all the ones the children can think of?

Pause Point

Have a Pause Point by holding up the Owl with wings aloft (and/or by using **Slide 4**)

Invite children to take 3 deep breaths, in through the nose and out through the mouth

Ask: What do you think a supreme being might be able or should do as one of their main jobs?

Draw out the roles from the children's ideas or directly teach the following over slides 5-8

Slide 5: A tree without leaves, with buds, with leaves, with brown leaves and then no leaves again.

In life, new life is created, then it is sustained (it carries on and survives) (e.g., by eating and drinking) and then it dies. Think about trees. The shoots come out in the spring, the leaves stay on the tree for the spring and summer, and in the autumn, the leaves die back to nothing before the whole cycle begins again next spring.

Most Sanatanis believe that Brahman causes events like these and he does it by appearing as three different personalities. These are called **deities**.

Slide 6: At times Brahman needs to create new life. In this role, he is shown as looking like this and is called **Brahma** (the names are quite similar so make sure you don't get them confused.) Brahma is the creator. We could remember this by thinking of a tree with new leaf buds on it.

Slide 7: Once something is created, it needs the right conditions to help it grow and develop. Its life needs looking after. Another word for this is preserving. You might have heard this word about famous buildings like old places of worship, the Egyptian pyramids or historic or religious artefacts. In this role, Brahman is shown as looking like this and is called **Vishnu**. Vishnu is the preserver of life.

Slide 8: At the end of a season or a life, things come to an end. The old things are destroyed so that new life can come in its place. For example, we know that the leaves have to die and fall off the trees in the autumn, so that the tree can store all its goodness and make new leaves the next springtime. In this role, Brahman looks like this and is called **Shiva**. Shiva is the destroyer but this doesn't mean anything bad. It is just the side of Brahman that deals with bringing things to an end.

These three deities (sides of Brahman's personality and role) are called the Tri-murti.

Move backwards and forwards through these last 3 slides again, asking the children to repeat key vocabulary such as the names of the deities and their roles. This will help to embed the learning for their activity.

How can the triangle help us remember the name of the group of 3 main deities?

What jobs might a Sanatani believe God needs to do?

What do you think a supreme being might be able or should do as one of their main jobs?

What do you think this is telling us about life?

What job does Brahma do?

What job does Vishnu do?

What job does Shiva do?

Let me learn

Individually or in groups or pairs, children are given the activity sheet. Owl has tried to write out the names of the deities, match that to their picture and the right tree image, and then put the role. Sadly, Owl has got it all muddled up so needs the children to help. Can they cut out the boxes in the table and then put them in the right place? Each list should have the name of the deity, their picture, the tree image that matches their role and the name of their role.

Children can check with each other and with the teacher's correct version. If done individually, they could stick in their journals when correct. If done as groups, photos could be taken to put on a working wall or stuck in their Jigsaw RE Journals.

Help me reflect

Using the owl, support the children in sitting quietly and take a few breaths to calm and consider their reflection.

I would like you to sit comfortably, close your eyes and take 3 deep breaths.

Think about how every living thing begins, lives and then comes to an end. This is the cycle of life.

Use **Slide 9** to explain and invite children to complete the 'Today's Learning' self-assessment activity by colouring the appropriate owl. Stick sheet in Jigsaw RE Journal.

Can you help Owl sort out the muddle?

Notes

Ensure that the children do not muddle up Brahman and Brahma and understand that there is ONE GOD but that he appears in different forms called deities who show different aspects of his role and personality.