

Puja

Information PowerPoint



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Aim

- To learn about puja and its importance to Hindus.

Success Criteria

- I can define what puja is and explain what it involves.
- I can explain the purpose and significance of the objects on the puja tray.
- I can identify similarities between puja in the home and puja inside a temple.

What is Puja?

Hindus worship one or more of the deities, but it doesn't matter which because they are all seen as different aspects of the one supreme God.

This worship is called puja.



What Happens During Puja?

Puja involves:

- praying to an image of a deity (murti)
- giving offerings to the deity.

Worshippers take off their shoes to worship. They usually begin with the sacred word 'Aum' then repeat prayers (mantras) and the name of their favourite gods or goddesses.

Offerings such as fruit, incense, water and flowers are made.

Blessed food, which is known as 'prashad', is eaten once the worship has finished.

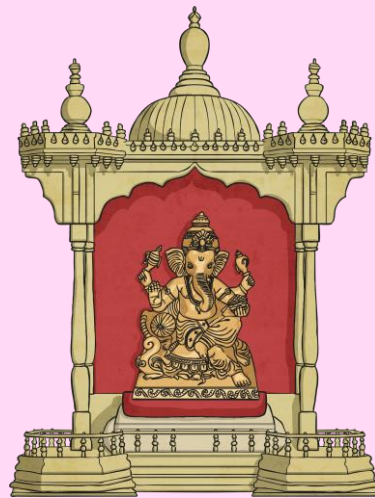


Where Can Puja Take Place?

Puja is a daily routine for Hindus and is carried out at least once every day.

Most Hindu homes have a holy shrine where puja takes place. Having a shrine at home means that families can worship together.

Some shrines are elaborately decorated and others are quite simple.



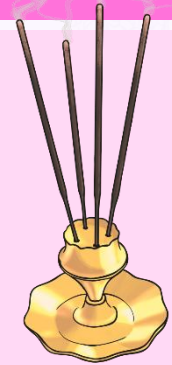
Objects Used in Puja

Each shrine contains a puja tray, which holds several important items:

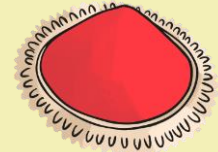
Bell – The worshippers ring the bell to let God know that they are ready to worship.



Incense and incense holder – The incense burns and gives off a pleasant aroma, which purifies the air around the shrine.



Kum kum powder – When mixed with water, this powder makes a red paste. Hindu worshippers use it to mark their foreheads as a sign of respect to the gods. They also mark the foreheads of the gods on their shrine.



Divya lamp – The lamp is lit as a symbol of God's presence.



Water containers and spoon – To show respect, water is offered to the gods on a spoon.



More Facts About Puja at the Temple

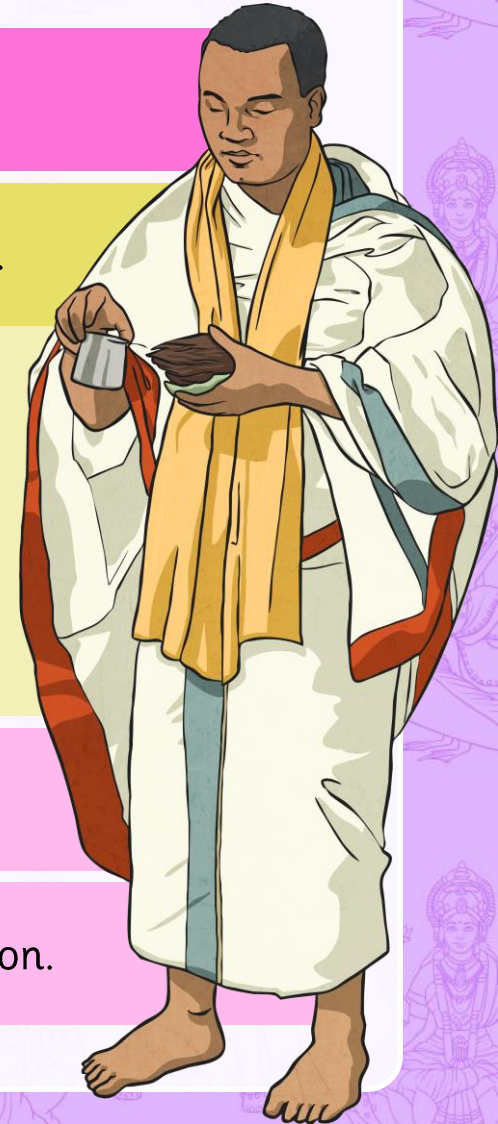
Puja is conducted by the temple priest.

Hindus can visit the temple at any time for puja.



Sunday is a popular day for worship.

Worshippers sing as a way of showing their devotion.



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