



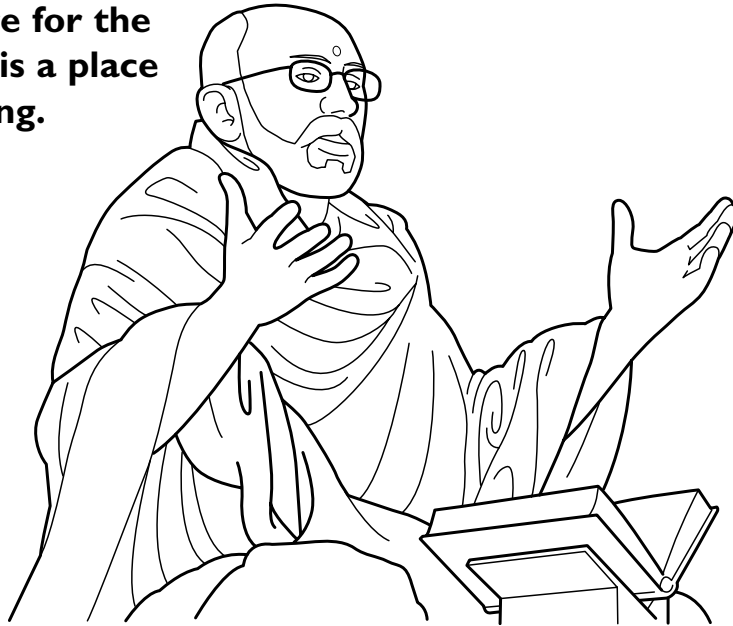
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Name:..... Form:.....

See pages 18 and 19 of Hindu mandir

Learning and giving in the mandir

The mandir is a centre for the Hindu community. It is a place for learning and helping.



Q1. Who is the man in the picture?

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Q2. What is he doing?

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Q3. List four things that might happen in a prayer hall.

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Q4. List four things that a Hindu might do to help others in the community.

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Answers

1. A learned priest or teacher.
2. Teaching, reciting texts, discussing texts.
3. Performances of sacred songs and dance, recital of holy texts, talks or lectures about Hinduism, community events or festivals may be held there.
4. Cleaning the mandir, helping to prepare for festivals and holidays, organising projects to help others, donating time or something else to the mandir.

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To understand how the mandir is used for learning and giving.
- ▶ To review some of the types of learning and charity that take place inside the mandir.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children know that there are different Hindu holy texts.
- ▶ The children know that both learning about Hinduism and giving to charity are important parts of being Hindu.

Teaching notes

Hindu scriptures are made up of two types of sacred writings. The first are called sruti, which are the writings of ancient Hindu saints. Sruti texts include: the Rig Veda ("royal knowledge"), the Sama Veda ("knowledge of chants"), the Yajur Veda ("knowledge of sacrificial rituals"), the Atharva Veda ("knowledge of incarnations"), and the 108 Upanishads, which are discourses on Hindu concepts such as karma and nirvana.

The second type of sacred texts are called smirti literature and consist of poetry and epics which were originally orally transmitted. These epics use symbolism and mythology to make complicated concepts accessible. The most famous of these epics are: the Mahabharata, the world's longest epic poem written around the 9th century BCE and dealing with the power struggle between two noble families; the Bhagavad Ghita, written around the 2nd century BCE and forming the sixth part of the Mahabharata; the Ramayana, composed between the 4th and 2nd century BCE and depicting the story of the royal couple of Ayodha – Ram and Sita.

Both types of scripture are incredibly difficult for non-Hindus and Hindus alike to understand as they were written, but many more accessible versions have been written in modern times.

Complementary work

The children could read a translation of a story from one of the Hindu sacred texts, such as the Mahabharata. Or, they could watch an episode of the Mahabharata on video. Please note: the teacher should read or watch any sections before giving them to the class, as some of them deal with themes inappropriate for children.

Resources

Copies of translations of the Mahabharata or a video of an episode of the Mahabharata (available at Asian video stores).