

R.E. Knowledge Organiser

R.E. Focus	Hinduism: River Ganges	Year 3	Summer 2
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What? (Key Knowledge)

What is the River Ganges used for?



The Ganges is important to both residents and pilgrims. Hindus see the river as a goddess. Hindus believe that bathing in the river helps to cleanse the soul. People are baptised in the water and the ashes of people who have died are poured into the river. The river is also used for farming, washing and bathing.

What do Hindus believe about the River Ganges?

Hindus believe **Brahman** is in the water (a life source). People bathe in the river to wash away the wrong things they have done then they will be pure/cleansed. Hindu legend says that the goddess of the Ganges, **Ganga**, was raised in the heavens and then came to earth and formed the river.

Where is the River Ganges?

The river Ganges starts high up in the Himalayan mountains and flows through the northern part of India into the Bay of Bengal.

Pilgrimage to the River Ganges.

Hindus try to make a visit to the River Ganges at least once in their lifetime so they can bathe in the waters. Many Hindus come during the festival Kumbh Mela.

Attainment Targets

- I can explain why water is important.
- I can describe a Hindu ritual that happens at/in the River Ganges and explain why this is important and significant to the Hindus taking part in it.
- I can empathise with the special feelings a Hindu might experience when taking part in a ritual at the River Ganges.

Key Questions

- [Would visiting the River Ganges feel special to a non-Hindu? Why/why not?](#)
- Why is the River Ganges sacred?
- What do Hindus do when they visit the river?
- How does a visit to the River Ganges compare to Hajj for a Muslim?
- What is a pilgrimage?
- [Where might a non-religious person make a special visit?](#)
- [Why do non-Hindus respect and value rivers?](#)

What? (Key vocab)

Spelling

Definition

Brahman

There are many gods and goddesses in the Hindu faith, but the one true god is Brahman.

Pilgrimage

A religious journey to a place of significance.

Varanasi

A city on the banks of the River Ganges.

Omnipresent

God is present everywhere and in everything.

Possible experiences

- Invite a Hindu visitor in (zoom) to talk about why the River Ganges is so important.
- Outdoor Learning – make a ‘river’ using water / draw using chalk. Label things that happen there.