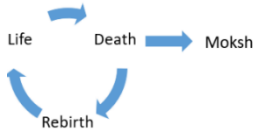
WHY DO HINDUS TRY TO BE GOOD? Knowledge Organiser Terms 1 and 3 Mighty Oaks

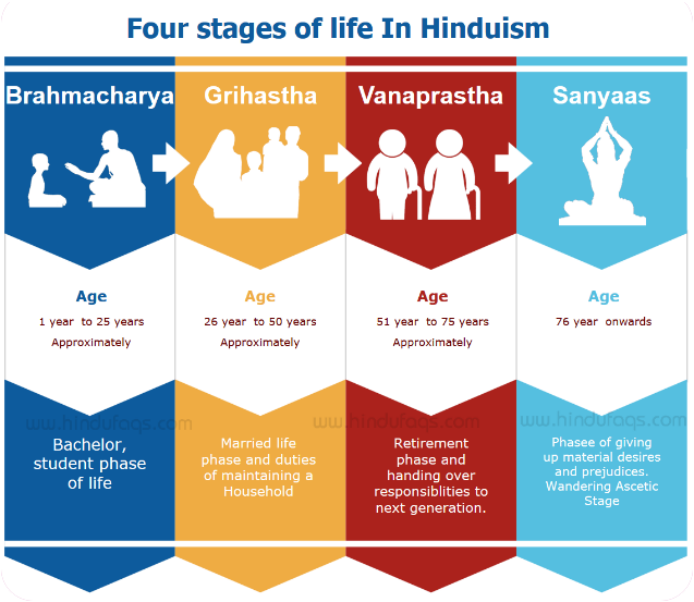
Key Vocabulary

Ahimsa	The idea of non-violence
Ashramas	The four stages of human life
Atman	The spark of Brahman within each living creature.
Aum	The aum is an important symbol in Hinduism Hindus consider Aum to be the universal name of the Lord and that it encompasses all of creation. Many Hindus consider it to be the first sound when the universe was created.
Brahman	Many Hindus believe that there is only one God (Brahman), the deities each symbolise an aspect of Brahman.
Dharma	This means 'duty' and Hindus will try to discover what their duty is.
Karma	Someone's positive actions and intentions lead to good karma and leave a positive imprint on a person, but negative actions and intentions lead to bad karma and leave the opposite. Good and bad karma can affect someone in their current life and also affect their lives to come
Mahabharata	A sacred text within Hinduism
Moksha	Release from the cycle of samsara where the atman is reunited with Brahman
monotheist	Someone who believe in the existence of one god. Jews, Christians and Muslims are monotheists. Some Hindus might also say they were monotheist because Brahman is one god.
Murti	Representation of one of the Hindu diving beings
polytheist	Someone who believe in the existence of many gods (poly=many)
Samsara	The cycle of birth, death and rebirth in Hinduism
Trimurti	Representation of the three gods Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva

The Aum symbol



The cycle of Samsara



Key Knowledge

Most Hindus don't think of Brahman as a being (like the Christian God) who is separate from Creation – Brahman is in every single living thing. The universe was not created by Brahman, it actually **is** Brahman. A way of understanding this is to think of Brahman as the energy within the universe.

Many Hindus believe that there are different duties (dharma) that should be performed at each stage of their life (the ashramas). Living according to dharma brings good karma.

Most Hindus believe that the atman within each living thing is trying to find its way back to Brahman. They try to live well so that in each new rebirth they grow closer to achieving this.

Gandhi, a famous Hindu, was a lawyer in India who protested against British rule – he wanted India to rule itself. He followed the principle of ahimsa (non-violence), promoting peaceful protest. His wisdom and teachings are often quoted.