Stories of Hinduism

Three Key Questions

How did Ajamil transform his life?	What lessons can you learn from Hindu stories?	Why is Krishna important for Hindus?

Vocabulary

reincarnation	An important Hindu belief that after a soul dies it is re-born into a human, an animal or a plant.
Brahman	A universal soul that can take on many forms.
avatar	A physical representation of Brahman.
success	Achieving something you have worked for.
punishment	A consequence to doing something wrong.
forgiveness	Forgiving someone for their wrong doing.
transformation	means 'a marked change in form, nature or appearance'.
life transformation	when someone's life changes dramatically.

Important Symbols and Key Facts

Hindus believe in one God, a universal soul called Brahman. Brahman can take on many forms, including Vishnu, Shiva, Krishna, Rama. Each of these forms personifies a different aspect of Brahman: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

Hindus believe Vishnu has appeared on earth nine times in different forms. They describe them as avatars of Vishnu. Hindus believe that Vishnu will appear for a tenth and final time in the form of Kalki, a person seated on a white horse.

1. Matsya
Vishnu appeared as a fish to save Manu from a flood.

2. Kurma
Vishnu appeared as a turtle and churned the ocean.

3. Varaha
Vishnu appeared as a boar to recover the stolen Vedas.

4. Narasimha
Vishnu appeared as a half man, half lion to vanquish a demon.

5. Vamana
Vishnu appeared as a dwarf to trick a demon called Bali.

6. Parasurama
Vishnu appeared as a hunter to get rid of sinful monarchs.

7. Rama
Vishnu appeared as a great warrior to kill the demon king.

8. Krishna
Vishnu appeared as a clever man to deliver a message.

9. Buddha
Vishnu appeared as an all-knowing man.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="5">We Are Learning To…</th></tr>
<tr><td>… understand that Hindus believe God is represented in different forms.</td><td>… explore how Krishna is represented in Hindu stories.</td><td>… explore Hindu teachings on success.</td><td>… explore the theme of punishment and forgiveness in a Hindu story.</td><td>… explore a Hindu teaching about telling the truth.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fun Facts</td><td colspan="4">Hinduism is the main religion in South Asia.
90% of Hindus live in India.
Worldwide, there are over 1.1 billion Hindus - that's around 16% of the global population!
Unlike Christianity and Islam, Hinduism doesn't have a singular holy book but instead has many ancient texts and scriptures.
Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world - some Hindu traditions started over 3000 years ago.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td> </td><td colspan="3">While there are Hindu temples, many Hindu households have an area of their house that they also use to worship; this is known as a 'shrine'.
Hindu places of worship are called mandir.</td></tr>
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