



# RE

## Hinduism

# Symbols and Meanings



# Religions and Symbols



Can you match the religions with their main symbols?

Christianity

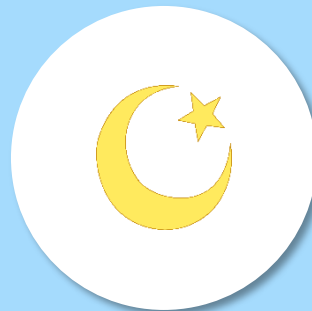
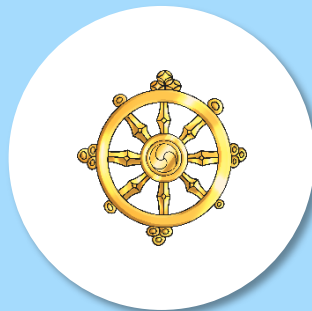
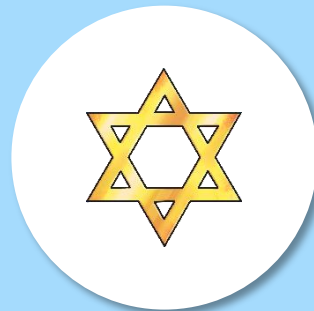
Judaism

Hinduism

Sikhism

Buddhism

Islam



# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Aum

This is the most important symbol in Hinduism.

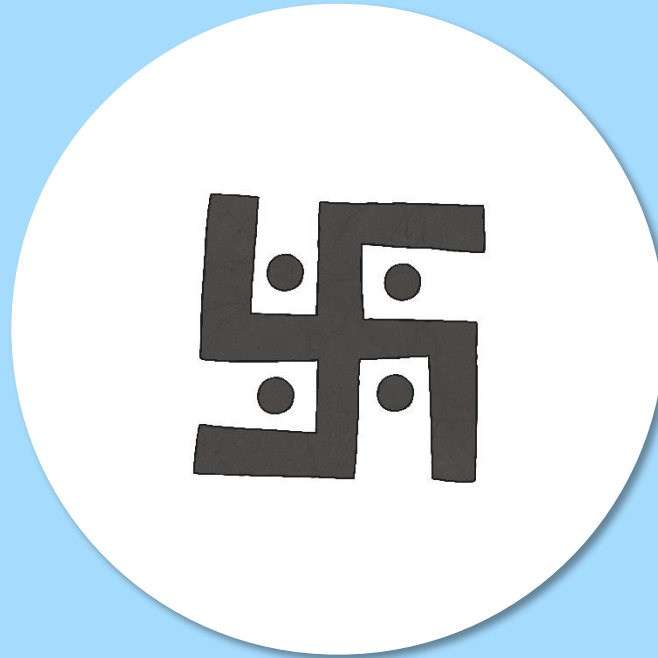


It represents the Atman (soul) and the Brahman (the ultimate reality).

# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Swastika

The swastika is a very holy symbol, representing the Sun god Surya.



It shows how Hinduism is part of every aspect of a Hindu's life.

# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Lotus Flower (Padma)

This is a very important symbol, as Hindus believe that Brahma (the Creator) came from a lotus flower.



Despite growing in muddy waters, the lotus turns into a beautiful flower.

It represents how people should always become kind and good.

# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Hands Together

When Hindu people greet each other they place two hands together, bow their head slightly and say Namaste.



This is the same when they greet a god in a temple or a holy person.

This is seen as offering respect to the atman (soul) of whoever is being greeted.

# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Conch Shell

This is used as part of the ritual while praying.



It is one of the symbols of Lord Vishnu.



# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Trident (Trishul)

The Trident is the symbol of the Lord Shiva.



# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Kalasha

The kalasha is a coconut circled with mango leaves on a pot.



It is often used in rituals such as the fire sacrifice.

# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Cow

Cows are considered to be symbolic of purity, motherhood and ahimsa (non-violence).



It is often used in rituals such as the fire sacrifice.

# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Diya

Diya lamps are the symbols of light.



# Hindu Symbols and their Meanings

## Pranama

This is considered a respectful greeting for an elder in the family, for someone who is deeply respected and for statues of deities.



The pranama is usually followed by a blessing from the person (or is assumed in the case of a deity statue).

