Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	Hinduism - River Ganges	YEAR 3	TERM 6

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

Hinduism - Would visiting the River Ganges feel special to a non-Hindu?

The River Ganges is considered to be **sacred** and spiritually pure for Hindus although in reality it is not a clean river.

Some Hindus believe that it flowed from heaven to purify humans.

Sometimes the river is represented in female form because many Hindus refer to it as 'mother Gangaa' or 'she'.

Many Hindus believe water (known as 'Gangaa jal') from anywhere on the River Ganges is purifying and holy.

Some Hindus believe that the River Ganges pays its respects to Lord Shiva by the direction in which it flows.

People enter the Ganges in order to purify themselves. Many pilgrims also take home small containers of water from there to give to friends and family who are not able to attend.

One of the key places of Hindu pilgrimage is **Varanasi**, situated on the bank of the holy River Ganges. It is considered to be the home of Shiva one of the principle deities of Hinduism and part of the Trimurti.

The city of **Varanasi** is one of India's oldest and holiest cities.

Some Hindus believe that if they die at Varanasi, they might be able to attain **moksha** sooner.

Some Hindus go there when they are close to death in order to die there. Others have their ashes scattered there by relatives.

The banks of the River Ganges host hundreds of Hindu festivals and celebrations each year as the land over which the Ganges flows is regarded as sacred ground. It is believed that the holy waters of the river will purify the soul and lead to a better reincarnation or liberation (Moksha) of the soul from the cycle of life and death (Samsara).

WHAT? – Key vocabulary

River Ganges - The Ganges River, also called Ganga, is a river located in northern India

Sacred – shown great respect.

Purify – to make clean or pure.

Pilgrim - someone who takes a trip to a holy place for a religious purpose.

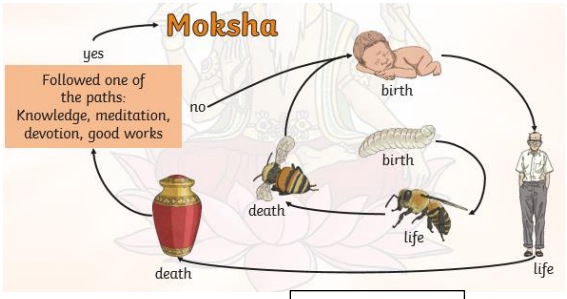
Pilgrimage – a long trip undertaken for religious purposes, such as to visit a holy place.

Varanasi – The city of **Varanasi** is one of India's oldest and holiest cities. The city is important to Hindus because it is dedicated to the god Shiva.

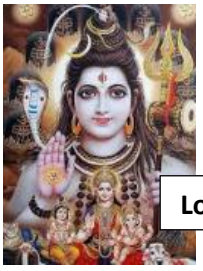
Moksha – The ultimate aim of Hinduism is to leave the cycle of rebirth and become one with the god Brahma. This is called Moksha.

Reincarnation - Reincarnation is the belief that life is a cycle of birth, life, death and rebirth. When a person dies, they are then reborn as another living thing. This cycle can go on for thousands of lifetimes.

Diagrams and symbols



Moksha



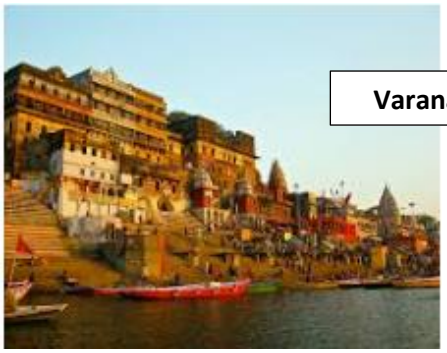
Lord Shiva

Possible Experiences:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-my-life-my-religion-hinduism-pilgrimage-hinduism/z4ghf4j

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39/resources/1

https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-mu-137-moksha-powerpoint



Varanasi

Learning Outcomes:

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.