

सिद्धि SUNDAY SESSIONS

World Religions

WEEK 2 - HINDUISM

Initial Stats

- Number of Hindus in the world today (as of 2012): _____
- Largest Populations
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- Largest percentage of population:
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

History of Hinduism

1. Initial formation (~4000 BCE - ~800 BCE)
2. _____ Period (~800 BC - ~200 BC)
3. Epic/Puranic Period (~200 BC - ~800 AD)
4. _____ Period (~800 AD - ~1700 AD)
5. Modern Period (~1700 AD - ~2000 AD)

Sects of Hinduism

Major traditions within Hinduism include _____, which is devoted to worship of the god Vishnu, and _____, organized around worship of the god Shiva. Because of a lack of census or survey data on subgroups of Hindus in most countries, however, reliable estimates of the size of the traditions are not available.

Holy Books

Shruti

- _____: The word Veda means “knowledge”. There are four Vedas: Rig, Sama, Yajur and Atharva.
- _____: These texts, numbering over 100, contain an extensive exploration of the methods of understanding the self, God, and the nature of the world.

Smriti

- _____: The Upavedas consist of four main texts, including:
 - *Ayurveda* – science of health and life
 - *Dhanurveda* – science of warfare
 - *Gandharvaveda* – the study of aesthetics, and delineates art forms
 - *Arthashastra* – guidance on public administration, governance, economy, and politics
- **Puranas**
- _____: This popular epic tells the life story of the noble prince named Rama, whom Hindus believe to be an incarnation of the Divine. Prince Rama suffers years of exile and many hardships while destroying powerful demons before returning to rule his kingdom. There are numerous versions of the Ramayana.
- **Mahabharata**
- _____: The Bhagavad Gita is a primary scripture for Hindus. Although it is a tiny part of the Mahabharata and technically classed as a Smriti text, it is traditionally accorded the rank of an Upanishad. It is meant to help one understand that upholding dharma can be challenging, especially in situations where there is not a clear right or wrong.
- **Agama Shastras**

Belief and Practice

Hindus believe we have four goals in life, known as puruṣārtha (“object of human pursuit”):

1. _____ (conducting ourselves in a way conducive to spiritual advancement)
2. _____ (the pursuit of material prosperity)
3. _____ (enjoyment of the material world)
4. _____ (liberation from the attachments caused by dependence on the material world and from the cycle of birth and rebirth).

Evangelism

Suggestions for Evangelism:

1. Offer Jesus' _____
2. Keep God's _____ in Mind
3. _____ and _____
4. Have a _____ Spirit
5. _____ on Jesus
6. Be Aware of _____

Primary Resources:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/9-things-you-should-know-about-hinduism/>

Dean C. Halverson, *The Compact Guide to World Religions*

Timothy C. Tennent, *Theology in the Context of World Christianity*

David Burnett, *The Spirit of Hinduism: Christian Perspective on Hindu Thought*

Hindu American Foundation - <https://www.hinduamerican.org/>

Pew Research Center Report on the Global Religious Landscape:

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2012/12/18/global-religious-landscape-hindu/>