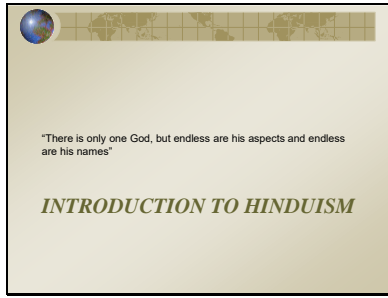


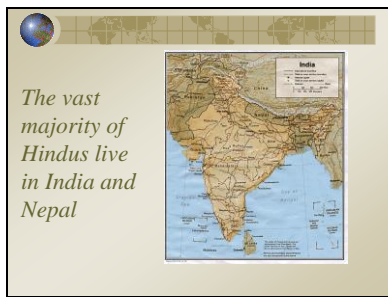
Slide 1




"There is only one God, but endless are his aspects and endless are his names"

INTRODUCTION TO HINDUISM

Slide 2



The vast majority of Hindus live in India and Nepal



Slide 3




Goal of Hinduism

Moksha:

- "release" or liberation
- United forever with the divine
- Infinite bliss and awareness





Slide 4

 *Hindu beliefs:*


- one God, yet many gods.
- one universal, invisible spirit called Brahman everywhere in the universe, inside every living thing.
- God has shown himself to human beings in many different forms, both animal and human.
- These gods and goddesses help us to understand what God is like.
- Two such gods are Ganesh and Krishna.

Slide 5

 *Reincarnation* 


- ❖ Samsara is the wheel of rebirth which means the soul is reborn from one life form to another.
- ❖ People may be reincarnated at a higher or lower level of existence depending on their karma from their present life.
- ❖ People may be reborn as plants or animals or they may be elevated to a higher caste as a human.
- ❖ Death is not final for Hindus as they expect to be reborn many times.


Slide 6


 *Dharma*



- ❖ Dharma: duty based on one's situation in life

Slide 7

 *Four Stages of Life*


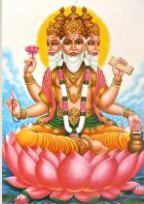
Stage One: Student stage 

Stage Two: Householder 

Stage Three: Forest-dweller --after the birth of first grandchild  

Stage Four: Sannyasin - wandering ascetic

Slide 8

 *Brahman:*  *essence of reality*

<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Brahman&view=detail&id=78F4D6C9E73369CDBD805F188B68234A5EDA03B&first=0&FORM=IDFRIR> July 21, 2011

Slide 9



 *THE TWO MOST POPULAR GODS*

SHIVA VISHNU

Slide 10

 *Avatars of Vishnu*

Krishna Rama

Slide 11

 *Goddesses*

Lakshmi Saraswati

Slide 12

 *Kali*

- ❖ wife of Shiva
- ❖ black in color & wearing a necklace of skulls.
- ❖ She is a bloodthirsty goddess.
- ❖ A violent destroyer of her enemies
- ❖ affectionate and caring for her devotees.



Slide 13



Festival: Diwali

Diwali: "Row of lights"

- ❖ Takes place in Oct. or Nov.
- ❖ a series of five festivals
- ❖ Lights are floated on small rafts
- ❖ If the candle remains lit, good luck will follow.




Slide 14

The Ganges River

Falling from its source of Vishnu's feet onto Shiva's head and out from his hair, the water of the Ganges is sacred enough to purify all sins.



Slide 15

Caste System

major castes

- ❖ Brahmin : priests
- ❖ Kshatriya: warriors and administrators
- ❖ Vaishya: farmers, merchants, teachers, artisans
- ❖ Sudras: servants, laborers
- ❖ Dalits: "untouchables"



Slide 16

