




Name:..... Form:.....

See **pages 4 and 5** of Hindu mandir

Looking at the outside of a mandir

1. Is the mandir in a specially built building or is it built inside an existing building?



2. Is there an archway outside the mandir? 

3. Describe the outside of the mandir here.







4. Are there any decorations or art on the outside of the mandir? If there are, make a drawing of some of them here.

On a separate sheet of paper, draw the outside of the mandir.

5. Are there any symbols or writing on the outside of the mandir? If so, draw them here.



Activity objectives

- ▶ To heighten the children's power of observation.
- ▶ To let the children investigate the design of a mandir.
- ▶ To show how Hindus use decoration and symbols on the outside of the mandir.

Preparation and resources

You may need to arrange for extra supervision when the children go outside to draw the mandir. If you are unable to visit a mandir, this activity could be done using a virtual tour of a mandir on a web site, or by showing children pictures of a mandir.

Introducing the activity

You may use this activity alone, or with activities from Units 2, 5 and 7. If there is a safe area, stand with the children just outside the mandir and ask them if the building is decorated in any special way. Or, if it is not appropriate to stand outside, take the children just into the entrance of the mandir and ask them to point out features that they can remember from studying the student book. Let the children try the activities.

Teaching notes

The purpose of this activity is to focus on the design of the mandir. Many mandirs in the UK are inside pre-existing buildings and may have very little decoration on the outside, or anything that sets them apart as mandirs. In this case children should look for the Om symbol or writing in Hindi or another Indian script.

There are a few specially built mandirs in the UK, and these may have more of the features of a traditional mandir, such as an archway and a tall roof, and may even be built of marble.

Concluding the activity

The children could reflect on what types of design or architectural elements the mandir has on the outside that make it different from ordinary buildings.

Activity outcomes

- ▶ The children can show their powers of observation.
- ▶ The children can describe the appearance of the outside of a mandir.

Complementary work

The children could investigate mandirs in the UK and see if there are any which are made using traditional materials and designs. The largest of these is the Shree Swaminarayan mandir in Neasden, London.

Resources

Computer and internet access.