



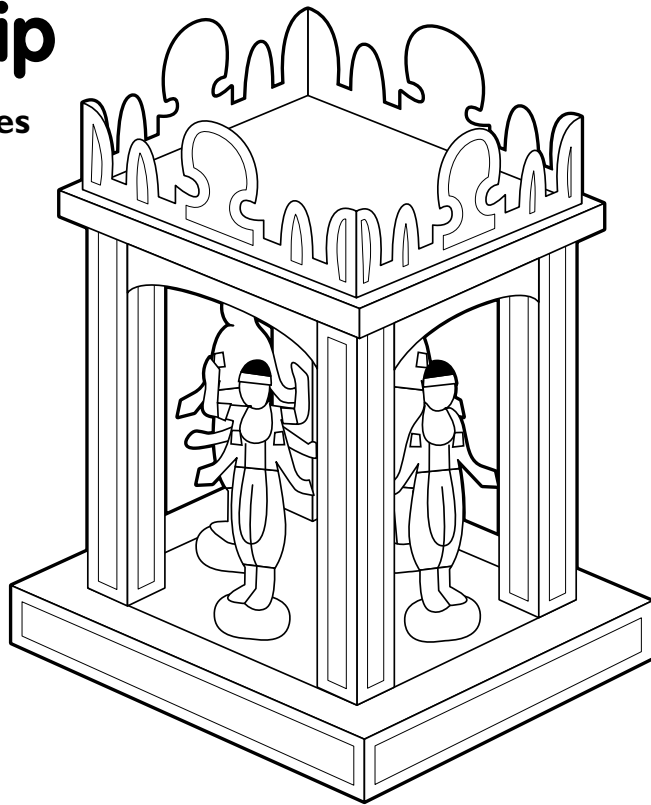
**3**

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

See **pages 8 and 9** of Hindu mandir

## Focus of worship

Each god and goddess who lives in the mandir has their own throne. These are the focus of worship in the mandir.



**Q1.** What are shrines designed and decorated to look like?



.....

**Q2.** What is usually in the middle of the mandir?



.....

**Q3.** What materials may shrines be made of?



.....

**Q4.** What is usually in front of a shrine?



.....

**Q5.** When people worship in the mandir, where do they stand?



.....

**Q6.** Who lives in the largest shrine?



.....



## Answers

1. A throne.
2. The largest shrine, the shrine for the main god or goddess of the mandir that the mandir is dedicated to.
3. Wood, stone or another material.
4. A curtain or a door.
5. In front of each shrine.
6. The main god or goddess of the mandir.

## Lesson objectives

- ▶ To understand the role of shrines in the mandir.
- ▶ To understand why shrines are important in the mandir.

## Teaching notes

*Even though mandirs are usually dedicated to one or two gods or goddesses, there may be many shrines in each mandir. The shrines resemble thrones or throne rooms used by ancient kings and queens of India. The canopy over the shrine is a reminder of cloth canopies covering ancient throne pavilions. The shrines may also have small furniture inside, again, like ancient throne pavilions. In the mandir, the shrines are often covered with curtains, except when worship is taking place, so as not to disturb the god or goddess at other times. Each morning, the priests awaken, wash, dress and adorn the murtis in the shrines.*

*One type of murti which we do not discuss in the student book is the Shiva linga, or lingam. This is a small, pillar shaped stone which represents the god Shiva. The lingam may be found with another, round stone with a depression in which the lingam sits, and may be decorated with designs carved in the stone.*

*The lingam is one of the most important forms of Shiva, and represents the energies necessary for life. During worship, the lingam may be bathed with water, symbolising the time when Brahman rewarded a king by granting him a wish. The king wished for the Ganges river to be brought to Earth from heaven. Brahman granted the wish but asked the king to pray to Shiva, because only Shiva was strong enough to support the weight of the Ganges as it descended to Earth. This is also why Shiva is often pictured with the Ganges flowing in his hair.*

## Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children understand that shrines are a focus for worship in the mandir.
- ▶ The children can describe the basic features of a shrine.

## Complementary work

The children use secondary sources to find out about some of the different gods and goddesses.

## Resources

Secondary sources about Hinduism and Hindu gods and goddesses.