

L.O.I understand that Hindu shrines  
are sacred places of worship

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zh2hyrd>



Most Hindus have a small shrine in their home where they can worship daily. This worship is called 'Puja'. The shrine will contain at least one image, called a 'murti', of their gods, for example, Lord Ganesh or Lord Krishna. These images help the Hindu to focus on different aspects of God.



Each shrine will also contain a puja tray which holds some seven items. These items are used in the worship. They help the Hindu to use all their senses when they worship, as a symbol that the whole person is taken up with the worship.



## A Bell

Worshippers will ring the bell to let God know that they have come to worship and to invite him into the home.



## A Diva Lamp

Worshippers will light the lamp and move it around in circles to bring light to the shrine. This light is a symbol of God's presence.



## Incense Sticks

Worshippers will light an incense stick and move it around the shrine in circles. This purifies the air and brings a pleasing aroma to the shrine for the gods.



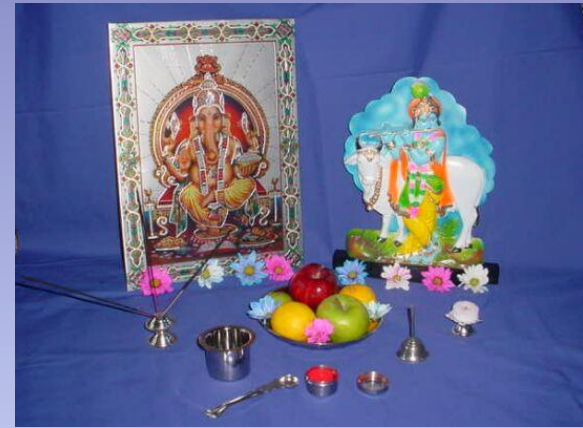
## Water container and spoon

Worshippers will offer water to the gods on a spoon. This is to show respect to the gods. Traditionally in India, people welcome a guest into the house by offering them water to drink and to wash.



## Red Kum Kum Powder

They use this to make a mark on the forehead of the images. This is again a sign of respect and devotion to the gods. They will also make a mark on their own forehead as a sign that God has blessed them.



## Prashad

Worshippers offer food (e.g. fruit and rice) and flowers in a bowl at the shrine for the gods to bless. This blessed food is called 'prashad'. It is later eaten by the worshippers.

# Task

In groups, build a Hindu shrine using the boxes as the shrine and the pictures as the objects of 'Puja'.

Ensure you label each object and decorate the shrine accordingly.

R/G –Say how each item is sacred to 'Puja'.





# Hindu Puja Trays





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We made our own Hindu shrines using boxes like this one. This kind of Hindu worship is done in the home, it is called puja.



The shrine will have an image of a god (murti) to help the worshipper to focus. The sound of the bell is to let God know they have come to worship.

The light of God's presence is shown with the diva lamp which is waved in the air to bring light to the shrine and worshippers feel the heat.

Food and flowers are blessed and offered to the gods, this is called preshad. Kum Kum powder is marked on the forehead to show devotion and respect.

bell

god

preshad

puja

respect

diva lamp

home