

Name:

Date:

The Major Beliefs of Hinduism (fill in the blanks)

Hindus believe in *one Supreme God*, _____. This supreme god creates, maintains, and destroys the universe in an endless cycle. He can also take the form of _____, representing different parts of his personality.

Part of the cycle of Brahman is *reincarnation* (also known as _____), meaning that each person who dies will be *reborn* in a new form. The type of form a person takes depends on the _____ (*the total of a person's good or bad actions*) of the person.

Hinduism teaches that each person has a *duty*, or _____, to accept his or her place in life without complaining. Each person, from a priest to a carpenter, has an important role to play in society and should take this role seriously.

Bad actions or not fulfilling one's dharma during life can result in a person being reborn into a worse human life, or even an animal form! On the other hand, good actions and fulfilling your dharma brings good karma, and a person with good karma can be reborn into a better life. Eventually, people with enough good karma can reach ultimate salvation and become free from the cycle of rebirth.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: Use complete sentences!

1. Do you think people's actions should have consequences for their next life? Explain why or why not.

2. Do you think this set of beliefs would encourage people to act in moral ways? (To follow rules about what is right and wrong?) Explain why or why not.

3. Overall, does this seem like a *fair* or a *just* system? Explain why or why not.