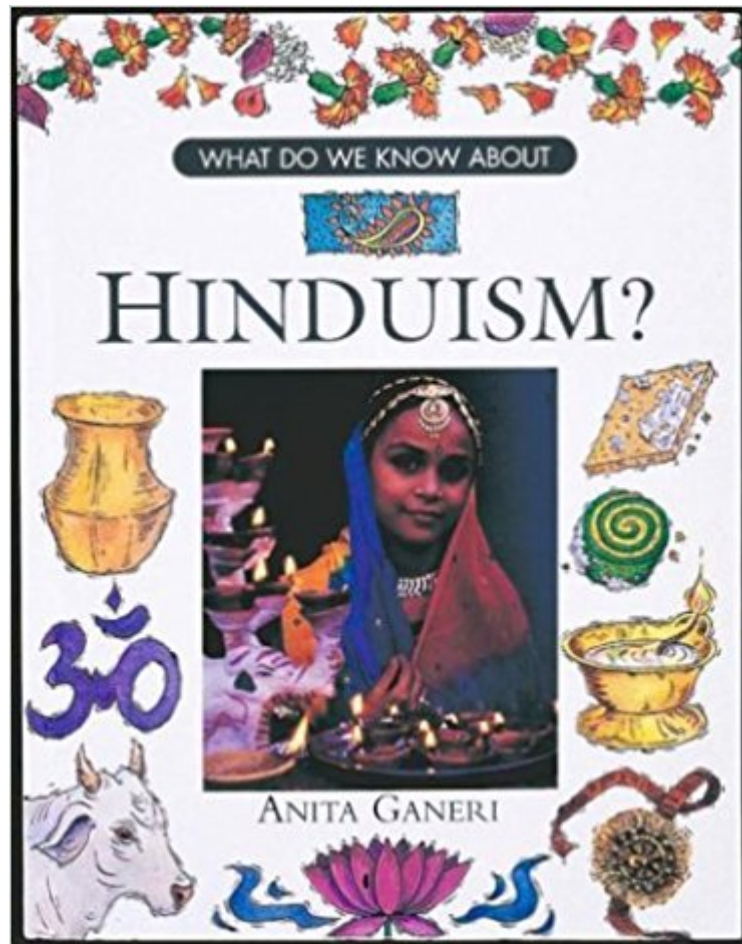




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Hinduism



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Synopsis

What do Hindus believe? Where do they pray and what are the major Hindu festivals? Where and when did Hinduism begin? This series takes an exciting look at religion, history, and culture through the everyday lives of people from all over the world. Using color photographs and detailed illustrations, each book helps young people ask questions and leads them toward a better understanding of a particular historical era, religion, or culture. Anita Ganeri was born in Calcutta, India. She graduated from Cambridge University and earned an M.A. in Indian studies. She is the author of many information books for young people.

Book Information

Series: What Do We Know About

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Peter Bedrick (March 9, 2002)

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Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.3 x 11.4 inches

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Age Range: 9 - 18 years

Grade Level: 4 - 12

Customer Reviews

This lively primer provides brief but memorable snapshots of various world religions, from both past and present. A global approach suggesting that "most religions now try to live and work more peacefully together" places Ganeri's work in context for young readers who are exploring their own faith and are hopefully striving to be tolerant of others' beliefs. From the Olympians of Ancient Greece to modern Hindus, Muslims and Amish, the profiles here range across the religious spectrum. In a well-paced, straightforward style, Ganeri discusses each religion's beliefs, symbols, sacred texts, important rites and major festivals. She also introduces readers to commonly-held perceptions about many religious groups, such as the charge that new members of religious cults are brainwashed. Consistently intriguing color photographs and occasional illustrations energize the

book's design, and the longish captions accompanying the artwork supply significant and compelling factual information. A glossary and index make investigating a specific topic a breeze, and, while Ganeri's volume is far from encyclopedic, it will whet young people's appetites for further research. Ages 7-up (Mar.) FYI: Ganeri has also contributed the volume *What Do We Know About Hinduism?* to the "What Do We Know About" series from Peter Bedrick Books. The series' nonfiction titles look at the culture, history, and religion of people from all over the world. Other religions titles are: *What Do We Know About Judaism?*, by Doreen Fine, and *What Do We Know About Sikhism?*, by Beryl Dhanjal. (Peter Bedrick Books, each \$18.95, ISBN 0-87226-385-1; -386-X; -387-8, ages 7-up, Jan.) Copyright 1997 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr 3-6--Fine's wide-ranging exposition of Judaism and the Jewish way of life is clearly written and beautifully illustrated. Unfortunately, its British perspective will present problems for North American readers. The author tends to present in juxtaposition the most extreme stands of Orthodox and Reform Jewry. Conservative Judaism, a major movement in this country, is only briefly mentioned. This perspective leads Fine to offer incomplete information on the status of women as rabbis; in fact, Conservative Judaism, as well as Reform, ordains women. For readers who are not familiar with Hinduism, Ganeri provides a many-sided portrait of "one of the oldest and largest religions in the world." Core beliefs are presented: reincarnation, salvation through living a good life, devotion to gods and goddesses. The author discusses the Sacred Scriptures, the role of Holy Men, modes of worship, yoga, and meditation. She stresses that Hinduism is not a "fixed, formal" religion, but rather a way of life expressed in life-cycle events, festivals, stories, classical art, music and dance, and dietary preferences. In both books, double-page chapters address specific questions, e.g., "How do Jewish families live?" or "Which are the Hindus' sacred books?" The spreads are profusely illustrated with full-color photos and illustrations; except for introductory paragraphs, the texts are simply captions for the artwork. Additional titles that present very broad surveys. Libby K. White, Schenectady County Public Library, NY Copyright 1997 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

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