L.C. Can I answer questions about Hinduism?

Use the information below to answer the following questions in your books, in full sentences.

1. When might Hinduism date from?
2. Draw the symbol of Hinduism. What is it called?
3. What is the Hindu place of worship called?
4. Where else do Hindus worship?
5. What do Hindus do when they worship?
6. What do Hindus believe?
7. What is the universal God called? Draw a picture of him in your book.

Who is the founder of Hinduism?

Hinduism has no founder, it developed out of Brahminism. Hinduism is the oldest religion, it may date to prehistoric times.

What is the symbol of Hinduism?

Aum is the main symbol of Hinduism. It is the sound heard in deepest meditation and is said to be the name most suited for God.

What is the Hindu place of Worship?

Most Hindus worship (puja) every day at home and have a **shrine** there. A shrine can be anything from a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues. Family members often worship together. At the shrine, Hindus make offerings to a murti. A murti is a sacred statue of God, or a god or goddess.

The Hindu building for communal worship is called **Mandir (Hindu Temple)**. The temples are dedicated to different gods and are the focus of religious life. Outside India, people mainly gather at the mandir at the weekend.

Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods, goddesses, and the mantras. Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to the gods.

What do Hindus believe?

For many Hindus, religion is a matter of practice rather than of beliefs. It's more what you do, than what you believe. Hindus believe in a universal soul or God called Brahman. Brahman takes on many forms that some Hindus worship as gods or goddesses in their own right. **Hindus believe that there is a part of Brahman in everyone and this is called the Atman.**