

Hinduism Key Terms Venn Activity

Learners should be able to explain and apply these terms in relation to the themes

1. **Arti** – A form of Hindu worship/prayer in which burning lamps are waved before the statues of the gods to invoke their presence.
2. **Atman** – The individual self or soul that is believed to be non-physical and return to Brahman once moksha is achieved.
3. **Avatar** – The incarnations of a deity, sometimes in human form; most commonly used is Vishnu, the Preserver God, who was incarnated through Krishna.
4. **Bhakti** – An act of love and devotion to a personal God performed as an act of worship.
5. **Brahman** – The supreme power in the Universe; ultimate reality; God.
6. **Mandir** – A Hindu place of worship or shrine.
7. **Murti** – An image or statue of a God/Goddess; one or more of these are often the focal point of puja.
8. **Nam Samskar** – The baby naming ceremony performed by Hindus. Also known as namakaran or naam sanskar.
9. **Puja** – Prayer/worship of the gods; offerings. Offerings are given to the murti.
10. **Trimurti** – The three major aspects of the Brahman, the supreme power; Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver and Shiva the Destroyer.
11. **Upanaya** – Sacred thread ceremony performed by Hindus.
12. **Varanasi** – A holy city built on the banks of the river Ganges; a place of pilgrimage for Hindus. Also known as Benares.

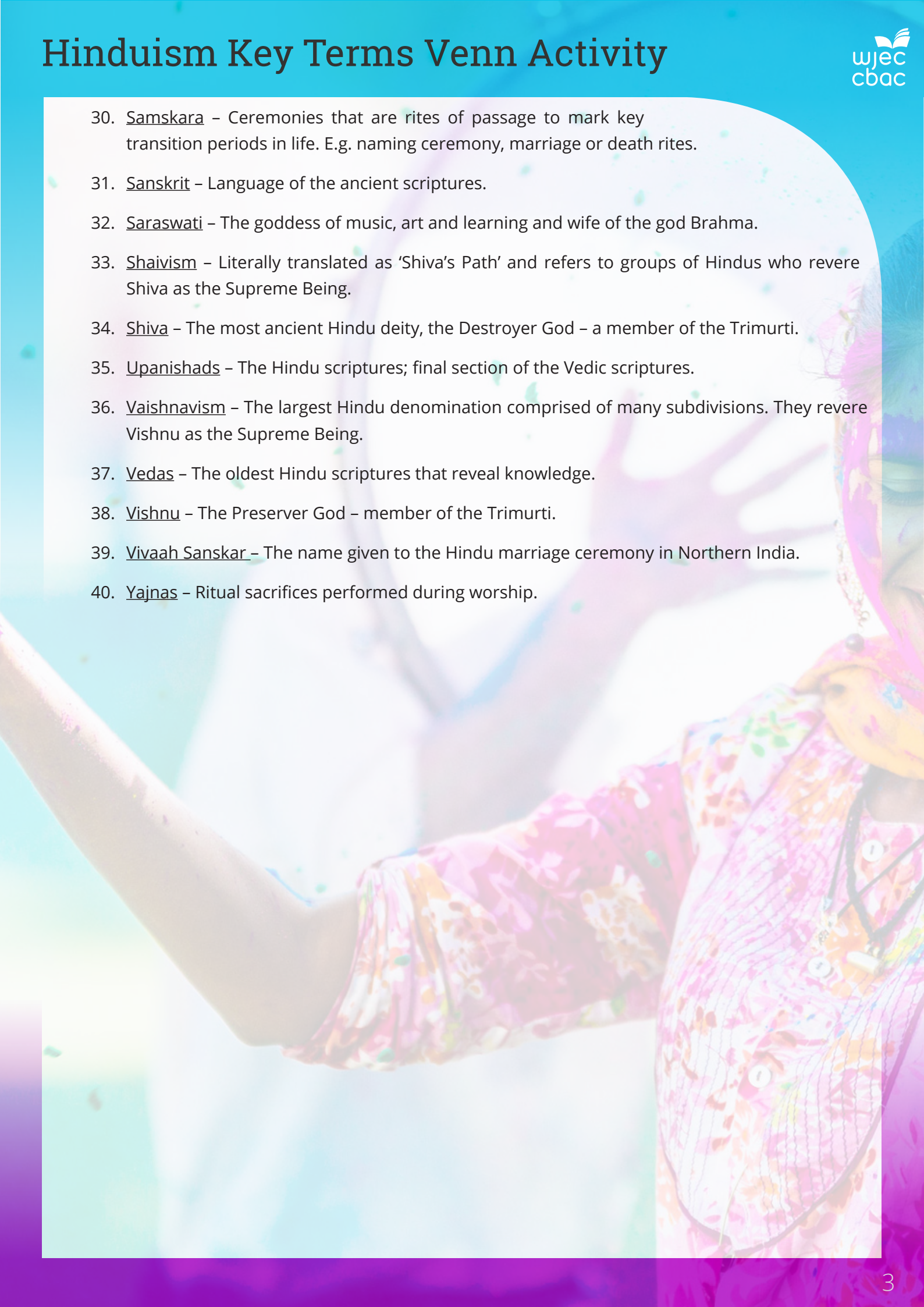
Other useful terms:

1. **Antyesti** – The name given to the Hindu funeral rite – literally translated as 'last sacrifice'.
2. **Bhagavad Gita** – The Hindu holy book; the "Song of the Lord".
3. **Brahma** – The Creator God – one of the members of the Trimurti.
4. **Danda** – Hindu equivalent of punishment. This traditionally took the form of a stick or staff.
5. **Deity** – A god or goddess.
6. **Dharma** – The religious and moral duty in relation to a person's status in Hindu society as determined by caste.
7. **Ganesh** – The elephant-headed God; god of good beginnings; symbol of luck and remover of obstacles. He is often the first to be worshipped.

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8. Hanuman – The monkey God; Hero of the Ramayana, God of strength.
9. Havan – A purifying ritual that involves the use of a sacred fire.
10. Ishtadev – A personally chosen God.
11. Japa – The repetition of a mantra or the names of God. This can be done aloud or in the mind.
12. Kalyanam – The name given to the Hindu marriage ceremony in Southern India.
13. Karma – The belief that actions, and the consequences of these actions, determine whether the atman will be released from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth. One could gain positive and/or negative karma.
14. Krishna – An avatar of Vishnu, which is worshipped widely.
15. Kurma Purana – A Medieval era Vaishnavism holy text.
16. Lakshmi – The goddess of wealth and fortune and wife of Vishnu – the Preserver God. Popular at the time of Diwali when diya lamps are put in windows to attract her attention.
17. Mahabharata – One of the two epic poems of India that includes the Bhagavad Gita.
18. Mantra – A sacred verse from the ancient scriptures that is repeated before and during worship; usually written in Sanskrit.
19. Moksha – The release from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth; liberation; ultimate union with God.
20. Namaste – A greeting, usually said with hands clasped in front of the body; literally “I bow to God as you”.
21. Om – A sacred syllable; said to be the first word ever lettered and the first sound heard; the most sacred mantra (sometimes Aum).
22. Papa – Actions that lead to negative results and spiritually degrade a person.
23. Pilgrimage – A journey to a place of religious significance undertaken for spiritual gain.
24. Prashad – Food offered to the gods and shared with the congregation.
25. Punya – Actions that bear positive results and spiritually elevate a person.
26. Rama – The seventh avatar of Lord Vishnu and the hero of the Ramayana.
27. Ramayana – One of the two great epics of India that tells the story of Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu.
28. Rig Veda – The oldest of the Hindu scriptures, literally “royal knowledge”.
29. Samsara – The constant change of the world through a process of birth, death and being reborn through reincarnation.

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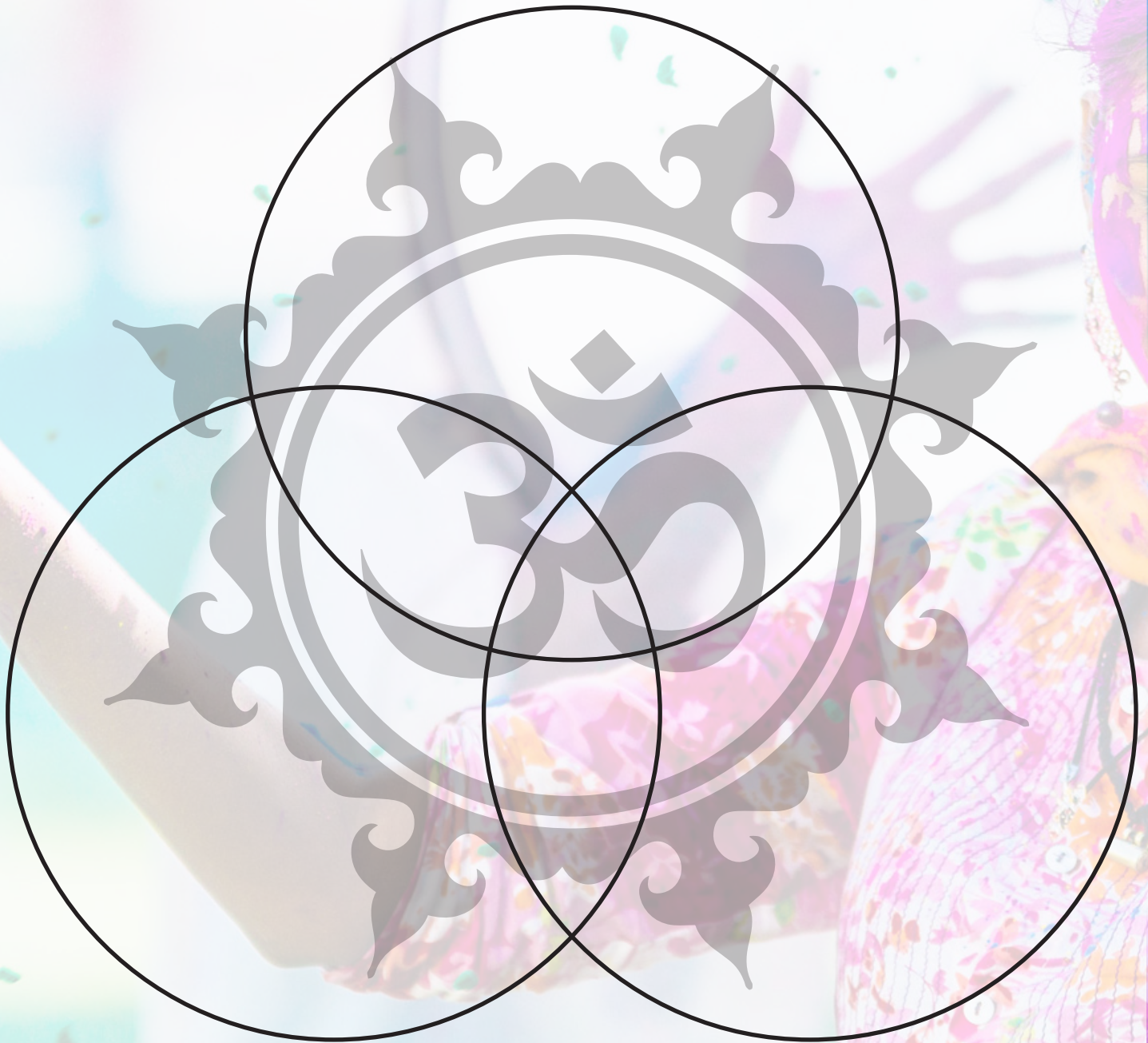
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30. Samskara – Ceremonies that are rites of passage to mark key transition periods in life. E.g. naming ceremony, marriage or death rites.
 31. Sanskrit – Language of the ancient scriptures.
 32. Saraswati – The goddess of music, art and learning and wife of the god Brahma.
 33. Shaivism – Literally translated as 'Shiva's Path' and refers to groups of Hindus who revere Shiva as the Supreme Being.
 34. Shiva – The most ancient Hindu deity, the Destroyer God – a member of the Trimurti.
 35. Upanishads – The Hindu scriptures; final section of the Vedic scriptures.
 36. Vaishnavism – The largest Hindu denomination comprised of many subdivisions. They revere Vishnu as the Supreme Being.
 37. Vedas – The oldest Hindu scriptures that reveal knowledge.
 38. Vishnu – The Preserver God – member of the Trimurti.
 39. Vivaah Sanskar – The name given to the Hindu marriage ceremony in Northern India.
 40. Yajnas – Ritual sacrifices performed during worship.

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Hindu Beliefs, Teachings and Practices

You are presented with a number of key terms that relate to the topics covered as part of this unit of work. Can you place them in the appropriate sections of the Venn? The terms either relate to Hindu beliefs, teachings, practices or a combination of the three. Discuss with your classmate why you have placed it where you have.

Beliefs



Teachings

Practices