

# WORD UP: HINDUISM

Match each of the Hindu terms and concepts on the left to its definition or description on the right.

**âtman** (AHT-muhn)

literally means “work” or “action”; often refers to the idea that our actions in this life affect the next life: One who does good works will be rewarded; one who does evil will bear the burden of his or her evil.

**Bhagavad Gita**

the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth that Hindus seek to escape

**Brahman**

a sacred poem that recounts a conversation between the god Krishna and Arjuna (AR-juh-nuh), a Hindu knight, about the ethics of killing and how one may attain salvation

**Brahmin**

**guru**

spiritual practices that include knowledge, devotion and service to a deity, good works, and contemplation

**jati** (JAH-tee)

the soul, or part of God, that is in every living being

**karma**

an outward hand sign that represents spiritual reality and is a greeting. It is performed by placing the palms together in front of the chest and making a slight bow.

**moksha**

a teacher of religious knowledge or spiritual insight

**namaste**

the one supreme, all-pervading Spirit or God from whom it is believed that all creation was developed

**samsâra** (suhm-SAHR-uh)

collections of hymns written to the gods and the earliest Hindu sacred writings

**Vedas**

salvation, or release from samsâra and oneness with Brahman

**yogas**

a member of the highest priestly caste

a caste, or social class, into which one is born. Good karma results in one being born into a higher caste in the next life.