**Deities, Avatars, and Epics**

Your task: Read p. 244 to 246 and then complete the following questions.

1. According to Hindus, is there one God or Supreme Being? Explain.
2. Summarize the role that Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva play in Hinduism.

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| --- | --- |
| Deity: | Summary of the deity’s role in Hinduism: |
| Brahma |  |
| Vishnu |  |
| Shiva |  |

1. Define **avatar**:
2. Why do you think that destructive deities are popular in Hindu worship?

**Central Beliefs: Hindu Scriptures**

Your task: Read p. 242 to 243 and then complete the following questions.

**Hindu Scriptures**

1. Originally how were the Hindu teachings and stories passed on to new generations?

**Revealed Scriptures**

1. What are the oldest Hindu scriptures?
2. Who were the Vedas written by and for?
3. Over the years, what did the Vedas come to include?
4. Each of the Upanishads is like a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which a person sits down beside a wise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to learn about the Vedas.
5. What is at the heart of the Vedas?

**Traditional Scriptures**

1. The second type of Hindu scriptures are the traditional or “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” scriptures.
2. Many of these are epic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, including popular stories that give instructions and examples of how to behave.
3. What is the **Ramayana** and the **Bhagavad Gita**?