

World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

Teacher Name: Courtland Blade

Humanities Discipline: Art History

Date: October 6, 2016

World Religion: Hinduism

Teaching Module Title: Hinduism, Art and architecture in America taking a closer look

Teaching Module Goals:

1. Introduce students to Hinduism, Hindu art, and Hindu architecture in the United States
2. Address how Hindu ideas and culture are reflected in temples
3. Explore the meaning and function of the Hindu temples in the United States

Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. *Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs in America: A Short History* pgs. 79-93.
2. *Watch the Temple Makers* <http://www.wfyi.org/programs/temple-makers/television/the-temple-makers>
3. *World Religions: the great faiths explored & Explained* by John Bowker pg. 22-23, pg. 34-37

Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. What are Murtis?
2. What are Yantras?
3. What is Darshan?
4. How often do Hindus in America usually gather in the Hindu temples?
5. What effect do Hindu temples have on the arts?

Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

Paper: After doing the readings and watching the video "The Temple Makers", discuss how the Hindu temple, specifically the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana, reflects the culture and ideas of Hinduism. Address what the Hindu temple is used for. What does the temple mean for Hindus living in Indiana and especially newly arrived Hindu immigrants? How does it function in their lives? Finally discuss the iconography used in the temple. Answer the question: why is the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana is unique among Hindu temples?

These questions should be addressed in a two-page or more essay in MLA, APA, or Chicago style.