**Origin**

 No known specific date for its start. Thought to be **brought to India by the Aryans**. Hinduism now refers to a group of different religions that grew out of **India** that were based around the **Vedas**. Known as the **“World’s oldest religion”**

**Vedas**

Hinduism’s holy book. Written in Sanskrit. Composed of four books: Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, and Atharva Veda.

**Beliefs**

**Polytheistic**- worship of multiple gods

 Religious **trinity** of Vishnu, Shiva, and Brahma. **Brahma** is seen as the creator, **Shiva** is the destroyer of evil, and **Vishnu** is the preserver of goodness.

 **Karma and Dharma**:

 **Karma** is the sum of all of your life’s actions, which has consequences in this life and the next. Also applies to thoughts, words, and impact on other people. **Dharma** signifies behaviors that are considered to be in accord with *[ṛta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E1%B9%9Ata%22%20%5Co%20%22%E1%B9%9Ata)*, the order that makes life and universe possible, and includes duties, rights, laws, conduct, virtues and ‘‘right way of living’’

**Reincarnation**

 Cycle of birth and rebirth and can be both human and animal. Goal is to attain **Moksha**, or liberation

**Moksha**

Liberation from reincarnation. Achieved by following the rules of Dharma.

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