

Wedding

Hinduism



Aim

To explain what happens at a Hindu wedding.



Success Criteria

- I can talk about my own experiences of attending weddings.
- I can identify similarities and differences between different kinds of weddings.
- I can show my understanding of Hindu weddings by drawing and labelling a wedding scene.

What Do We Know about Weddings?



A wedding is a ceremony, and the celebrations before and after this, when two people get married to one another.

Hindu Weddings



We are going to learn about a Hindu wedding.

What do you think it will be like?

As we find out about each part of the ceremony, imagine how you would experience the event using your senses.

What might you taste?

What might you smell?

What might you see?

What might you hear?

What might you touch?

Record your ideas in words and pictures on your
Hindu Wedding Senses Activity Sheet.

Hindu Weddings



Hindu weddings are often very big celebrations. Lots of people attend and the celebrations can even last more than one day!

The bride and groom make promises to one another at the wedding. Hindus also believe that two families are joining together. Some family members play an important role in the ceremony.



People look at the horoscopes of the people getting married to decide when the celebration will happen.

Horoscopes predict the future of a person and this is worked out by looking at the positions of planets and stars.

Hindu Weddings



An evening or two before the wedding, the women will gather together for a Mehndi Night. The bride has mehndi patterns painted on her hands in henna. It takes a long time to dry so she has to sit still!

They might also have a sangeet. At a sangeet, the women celebrate with the bride. They sing and dance to traditional and Bollywood songs.

How do you think it would feel to have mehndi patterns painted on your hands?

Hindu Weddings



What do you think people wear at Hindu weddings?

The bride wears beautiful silk clothing, embroidered with detailed designs and jewels. She might wear a sari or a long skirt with a short blouse and scarves over the top. The bride's clothing can be in any colour but red is traditional.

The groom might wear a jewelled safa (wedding turban), with a feather on top. Grooms usually wear a long, loose top over trousers.

Wedding guests will wear their best clothes to a wedding, usually with lots of jewels attached.

How would the jewelled clothes feel to wear?

Hindu Weddings



Where do you think Hindu weddings take place?

In India, weddings often take place in the home of the bride's family. Most often in Britain, weddings are held in halls or hotels.

The bride's family will be at the wedding venue first and they will welcome the groom to the wedding.

The groom arrives in a procession made up of his friends and family. Sometimes there will be music and dancing in the procession.

Traditionally, the groom would arrive on a horse but often he will arrive in a decorated car nowadays.

The arrival of the groom at the wedding venue is called the Baraat.

What would the Baraat sound like?

Hindu Weddings



What do you think happens at a Hindu wedding?

The bride's family welcome the groom and his family to the wedding venue.

A mark is put on the foreheads of the groom and his family with red kum-kum powder.

This marks the start of the two families being joined together.

The bride and the groom exchange garlands from around their necks.

How might it feel to have the kum-kum powder put on your head?

Hindu Weddings



What do you think happens at a Hindu wedding?

The groom is taken to a special altar called a mandap. The mandap has a canopy over it. He is given a special drink made from milk, ghee, yoghurt and honey. His family go with him.

The groom's mother gives the bride a necklace made with gold and black beads. This necklace is called the mangala sutra and symbolises marriage.

The father of the bride places his daughter's hand into the hand of the groom.

How do you think the special drink given to the groom would taste?

Hindu Weddings



The priest lights a fire and prayers are said in Sanskrit.
The groom holds his wife's hand close to the fire and announces
that they are husband and wife.

Flowers at the ceremony are symbols of the
love between the couple blooming.

How do you think the flowers would smell?

Hindu Weddings



An important part of the ceremony is when the bride and groom walk around the sacred fire. They take seven steps and say prayers. This is called Saptapadi.

Sometimes, instead of seven steps, the couple walk around the holy fire seven times. In some parts of the world, the bride touches seven stones or nuts with her toe.

During a Hindu wedding ceremony, a knot is tied in some way between the bride and the groom. Sometimes, this is done with a garland being placed around them. Sometimes, scarves on their clothing are tied together.

The groom's family give the fire offerings of barley or rice and the priest blesses the new husband and wife.

How might it feel to walk around the fire?

Hindu Weddings



The couple look at the Sun and to the Polar Star to be blessed.
The groom puts a dot of red kum-kum powder by the parting of the bride's hair at the front.

The newly married couple touch the feet of their parents to be blessed by them.

How might it feel to have the kum-kum powder put on your head?

Hindu Weddings



At some point after the ceremony, some Hindus enjoy a fun tradition where the sisters and female cousins of the bride steal the shoes of the groom, demanding treats for the return of his shoes. After the ceremony, there is usually a wedding reception where the new couple and their guests enjoy eating delicious food and dancing together.

How do you think the food might taste?



True or False?



Can you decide if these statements about Hindu weddings are true or false?

Hindu brides always wear white.

False

They can wear any colour, but red is traditional.



True or False?



Can you decide if these statements about Hindu weddings are true or false?

Henna takes a long time to dry.

True

The bride needs to sit very still while the henna dries.



True or False?



Can you decide if these statements about Hindu weddings are true or false?

The language used for the ceremony is Hindi.

False

The language used is Sanskrit.



True or False?



Can you decide if these statements about Hindu weddings are true or false?

The bride is given a special necklace called a mangala sutra.

True

This necklace is a symbol of marriage.



True or False?



Can you decide if these statements about Hindu weddings are true or false?

It is traditional for some Hindus to steal the groom's turban at a wedding.

False

It is traditional for the bride's sisters and female cousins to steal and hide the groom's shoes.

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