# Ch. 5, Lesson 3 Notes

**Topic:** Hinduism  **Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**E.Q.:** List and explain the main beliefs of Hinduism.

*Hinduism* is the main religion in India. It is one of the world’s oldest religions. It is different than other religions because it has no founder

Hinduism probably started with the religious beliefs of the Aryans (who wrote the Vedas) & the first people who lived in the Indus R. Valley

Hinduism is a religion of many gods & beliefs

**The Vedas:**

* The *Vedas* are “Books of Knowledge” in which sacred Aryan songs were written down
* There are 4 Vedas, the oldest of which is the *Rig Veda* (a collection of more than 1,000 hymns)
* Today, Hindus still sing hymns from the Rig Veda at ceremonies

**Gods & Goddesses:**

* *Brahman* is recognized by some Hindus as the one universal being. There are 3 forms (gods) of Brahman:

1. *Brahma,* the creator
2. *Vishnu,* the preserver
3. *Shiva,* the destroyer

* Vishnu maintains *dharma* (order of the universe)

**Seven Truths & Reincarnation:**

* 7 truths are important Hindu beliefs. They include peaceful living & freedom of thought
* *Reincarnation* is the process through which a person goes from one life to the next
* Hindus believe that one’s actions (good or bad) will affect their rebirth in the next life

**Summary**