

A Hindu Story: Rama and Sita

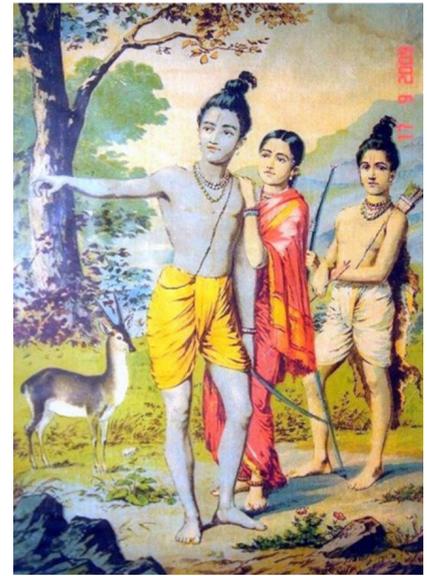
Important facts:

Hinduism is one of the world’s oldest religions. It developed from the beliefs of the people who lived around the River Indus in India thousands of years ago.

The Ramayana is an important Hindu text that tells the story of the life of a prince called Rama. Rama is the embodiment of Vishnu.

Valmiki is the poet traditionally thought to be the author of the Ramayana

The Hindu festival of Diwali celebrates the Rama’s return after defeating the demon Ravana.



Rama, Sita and Lakshmana in the forest.

Key vocabulary

epic	a long poem about the journey of a great person’s life.
embodiment of Vishnu	sharing in the strength, beauty, power and skill of Vishnu.
subjects	the people that are ruled by a king or queen
to succeed to	to inherit (often used of a kingdom)
to banish	to force someone to leave by law or decree.
devotion	a strong and steady love for something.

Characters:

Rama	a prince of the kingdom of Ayodhya
Sita	Rama’s wife
Lakshmana	one of Rama’s brothers
Ravana	a demon king
Hanuman	a monkey general with magical powers



Key concepts of the Ramayana include **light and dharma.**

