

Birth of Ganesha

Hindus have a special celebration to remind them about the story of their god Ganesha and this celebrates the birthday of Lord Ganesha.

Ganesha has many names these include Ganapati, Ekadanta, Vinayaka and Heramba.

Ganesha is the son of Lord Shiva and the Goddess Parvati, and he is always pictured with an elephant's head on a human body. He is known as the 'Remover of Obstacles' and is prayed to when people are beginning a new job or starting up a new business. Ganesha is also known as the patron god of travelling.

The festival is celebrated for ten days and it is a happy event and looked at as a public occasion. The community produce specially made models of Ganesha and walk to the river or sea with him. In other places it is simply celebrated at home, with hymns sung and offerings made to Ganesha. Sweets are also shared because in Hindu legend Ganesha liked them.



- 1 Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- 2 Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Look at the pictures, which ones do you like? Which ones do you not like? Talk about their likes and dislikes.
Ask the children to talk about things they find hard to do.
If you had a new head what would it look like? The children can draw a picture of their new head on the blank drawing template provided in the Ganesha section on iChild.
How do you like celebrating?
- 3 The children can colour in pictures of Ganesha on iChild.

The Story Of Ganesha



One day the goddess Parvati was taking a bath and created a beautiful son. She asked her son to keep people away from her.



Shiva his father came home and Ganesha would not let him enter. He was obeying his mother's orders. Shiva did not know his son, so had a fight with him and unfortunately Ganesha had his head cut off.



Parvati was very angry with Shiva and sent him away to find a replacement head. Shiva brought back the head of an elephant.



**The head was put onto
Ganesha's body, and so
the boy had a new
elephant head.**



Lord Ganesha is still celebrated today.