A Hindu Creation Story

There are several creation stories in Hinduism. Hinduism believes there are times when the universe takes form and times when it dissolves back into nothing. The in-between times are known as the days and nights of Brahma, who is the Hindu god of creation.

The *Hiranyagarbha*, or Golden Egg

The Hindu Symbol, Om

Before time began there was no heaven, no earth and no space between. A vast dark ocean washed upon the shores of nothingness and licked the edges of night. A giant cobra, Shesha, floated on the waters. Asleep within its endless coils lay the Lord Vishnu. He was watched over by the mighty serpent. Everything was so peaceful and silent that Vishnu slept undisturbed by dreams or motion.

Vishnu

From the depths a humming sound began to tremble, Om. It grew and spread, filling the emptiness and throbbing with energy. The night had ended. Vishnu awoke. As the dawn began to break, from Vishnu's navel grew a magnificent lotus flower. In the middle of the blossom sat Vishnu's servant, Brahma. He awaited the Lord's command.

Vishnu spoke to his servant: 'It is time to begin.' Brahma bowed. Vishnu commanded: 'Create the world.'
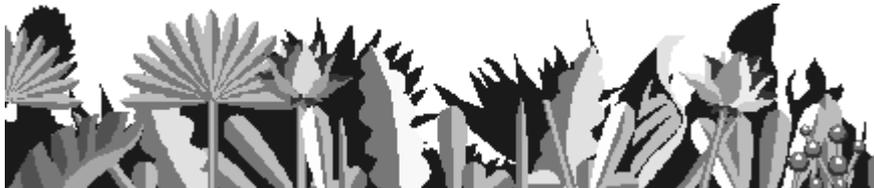
Brahma,
God of Creation

A wind swept up the waters. Vishnu and the serpent vanished. Brahma remained in the lotus flower, floating and tossing on the sea. He lifted up his arms and calmed the wind and the ocean. Then Brahma split the lotus flower into three. He stretched one part into the heavens. He made another part into the earth. With the third part of the flower he created the skies.

The earth was bare. Brahma set to work. He created grass, flowers, trees and plants of all kinds. To these he gave feeling. Next he created the animals and the insects to live on the land. He made birds to fly in the air and many fish to swim in the sea. To all these creatures, he gave the senses of touch and smell. He gave them power to see, hear and move.

The world was soon bristling with life and the air was filled with the sounds of Brahma's creation.

However, a wicked demon appeared and stole the world. He threw it far out into the cosmic ocean.

Vishnu quickly killed the demon and changed into animal form to rescue the world. Brahma was delighted at the world's safe return from the depths, for he was then able to finish his task of forming the land and all living things.

But one day, this Universe, like all others before it, will be wiped out when Lord Shiva, the destroyer, grows angry with the world's evil. At this time, he will dance his ferocious dance of destruction and once again there will be a time when nothing exists but Brahman.

HINDU TRINITY

Represents Three manifestations of the Supreme Reality.
These are :

Brahma : Creation   Vishnu : Preservation   Shiva : Destruction
Hindu Trinity (Trimurti)

- **Three Faces of Divine**
- **Three Cosmic Functions of the Supreme Lord**
- **Creation + Preservation+ Dissolution**
- **Generator + Operator + Destroyer = GOD**

The Hindu Creation

Read, carefully, the story of the Hindu creation.

Remember these main ideas about the Hindu creation story:
- The world is created and destroyed many times; Hindus believe it is a never-ending cycle. (Exploding/imploding universe?)
- Everything comes from a spirit called Brahman. He is the source of all life and is eternal, (he can never die.)
- There are many gods and goddesses. Each one is a different way of showing Brahman.

Remember the important gods in the story:
- Lord Brahma – the creator god.
- Lord Vishnu – the preserver god.
- Lord Shiva – the destroyer god. ("Is Lord Shiva a bad god?" *No, because he only destroys the world when he thinks that it has become bad and people are not caring for it and the animals any more.* Is there a link her with our Eco-School project?)

On a plain A4 sheet, divide it into 8 boxes and re-write the story of the Hindu Creation in 'comic-strip' form. Illustrate your story in the boxes.

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