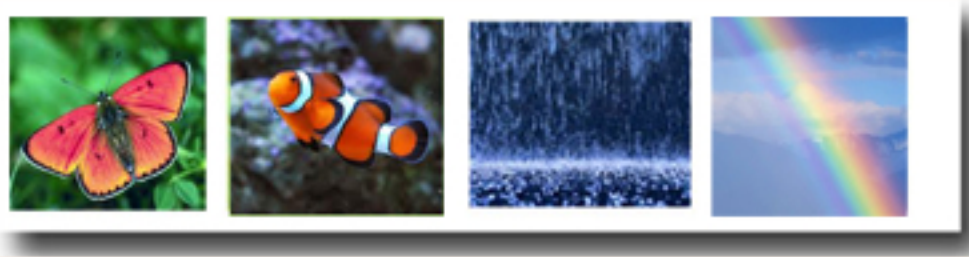
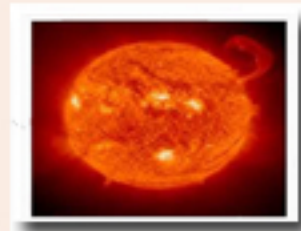


# puja

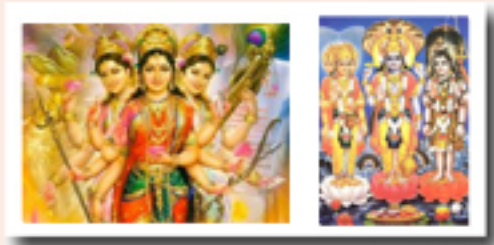
Everyday we see beautiful things: fluttering butterflies, brilliant fish, refreshing rain and sometimes even rainbows! As Hindus, we believe that all of these beautiful things are each a part of a Divine Force, called God.



We can't see this God, but we can feel God's Energy all around us. This Energy gives us strength and power.



This Energy can take many forms. We have a name for each of these forms, which we also call a "God" or "Goddess:" Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Ganesha, Saraswati, Lakshmi, Durga (Parvati) and many, many, others.



On special days, we call upon some of these Gods and Goddesses and perform a Puja Ceremony. We welcome the Gods and Goddesses into our homes and into our hearts. The Puja Ceremony helps us concentrate on God's Energy. It nourishes our strength and helps us do good deeds.



On Diwali, we perform a Puja Ceremony for Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi. We pray to Ganesha first because concentrating on him will help us to remove obstacles. We pray to Goddess Lakshmi because concentrating on her will help us to appreciate all the good fortune in our lives.

