The Hindu faith is more than just a religion. It is a complex blend of the cultural traditions, beliefs, and values of a diverse region. Due to the immense area of land where the faith was born, it quickly evolved into a variety of sects, each with its own ideas and practices. The sects of the faith may be unique, but they each have a few things in common.

Here are a few concepts familiar to each sect of the Hindu faith:

**Brahman**
The Supreme Cosmic Spirit. Brahman is also described as the unchanging, transcendent reality.

**Trimurti**
The trinity or the three manifestations of the Supreme Cosmic Spirit. They are:
- Brahma - the creator
- Vishnu - the preserver
- Shiva - the destroyer

**Devas**
“The Shining Ones,” or heavenly beings

**Avatars**
An Avatar is a god that descends from the heavens in human-like form to restore peace, or aid in human affairs. It is not uncommon for a god to have several Avatars.

**Samsara**
The cycle of birth-life-death-rebirth

**Dharma**
Ethics and duties

**Karma**
The concept of an action creating a reaction

**Moksha**
Moksha, or nirvana, is the ultimate goal in life. It is when one is liberated from the Samsara.

**OM/AUM**
The background of this fact sheet is the OM/AUM symbol of oneness and peace.