

Three stories of Ganesh: Answer sheet

1) Where does the Ganesh in our story live now?

In the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter – the 'Other Cultures' gallery upstairs

2) Who collected him? From which country?

Sir John Budd Phear of Exmouth, who was a High Court judge in Bengal from 1864 to 1876. He was collected from India

3) What is colonialism?

Colonialism is the establishment, exploitation, maintenance, acquisition, and expansion of colonies in one territory by people from another territory. It is a set of unequal relationships between the colonial power and the colony and often between the colonists and the indigenous population. (Wikipedia)

The 2006 Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy "uses the term 'colonialism' to describe the process of European settlement and political control over the rest of the world, including Americas,

4) Why does Ganesh have:

6a) big ears

To listen more carefully

6b) small eyes

To keenly observe and see things

6c) big belly

To digest the good and the bad

5) How did Parvati make Ganesh in the story?

She made him out of herself and the earth and water and breathed life into him

6) What happens next in the story? Put your answer in bullet points.

- *Parvati goes for a bath, asks Ganesh not to let anyone in*
- *Shiva comes home*
- *Ganesh refuses entry*
- *Tempers rise*
- *Shiva cuts off Ganesh's head in anger*
- *Parvati comes back from her bath, sees Ganesh lying on the ground, vows never to speak to Shiva again unless he can bring Ganesh back to life*
- *Shiva promises to do so and goes and finds the first animal head he sees: which is a baby elephant's head*

7) What does the god Ganesh stand for?

Remover of Obstacles: for example, you have a test or exam at school, and do not feel confident that you can do it well. You pray to Ganesh to help you push through and do well in your exam

8) How did Ravi acquire the statue of his Ganesh?

His father got it from India, and it has been in the family for 50 years. Ravi inherited it when his father died

9) What do the five lamps (diva) represent?

The elements of the human body: Fire, earth, air, water and ether (space)

10) What do you think about "collecting" things from another country?

This is an open question point that may raise some interesting discussion. See teacher's notes on "new interpretations".