

Ramayana Glossary

The underlined words are also on your vocabulary list for this unit.

Ayodhya - Capital city of Kosala which was ruled by Dasaratha, later by Rama.

Asoka - Garden in Lanka where Ravana kept Sita captive.

avatar - The incarnation of a god into another form. The incarnation of Vishnu on earth is Rama.

Bharata - Son of Queen Kaikeyi and the half brother of Rama.

boon - A promise or reward.

Brahma - The creator god of the Hindu triad of gods which includes Shiva and Vishnu.

Chitrakoot - A beautiful forest where Rama, Sita and Lakshmana lived.

Dandaka - Great forest which Rama, Sita and Lakshmana traveled through for ten years of their exile.

Dasaratha - King of Kosala and Rama's earthy father.

dharma - Laws, duties and obligations

Dushan - Brother of Ravana and Surpurnakha.

Ganges - The river considered sacred by Hindus.

Garuda - King of winged creatures.

Godavari - River Rama, Sita and Lakshmana crossed to get to Panchavati.

Hanuman - Monkey warrior who became Rama's devoted friend and servant.

Indrajit - Ravana's favorite son who fought Rama with magical weapons.

Jambuvan - Leader of the bears who found Sita.

Janaka - King of Mithila who found Sita in a furrow.

Jatayu - The great bird who tried to rescue Sita and was killed by Ravana.

Kaikeyi - Dasaratha's youngest queen and the mother of Bharata. She called for Rama's exile.

Kailasa - Mountain where Hanuman found the medicinal herbs.

Kausalya - Dasaratha's queen and Rama's mother.

Khar - Brother of Ravana and Surpurnakha.

Kiskindha - The monkey kingdom ruled by Sugriva.

Kosala - The kingdom ruled by Dasaratha.

Kush - Sita and Rama's son, twin of Lava.

Lakshmana - Queen Sumitra's son and devoted half-brother of Rama.

Lanka - Island kingdom ruled by Ravana.

Lava - Sita and Rama's son, twin of Kush.

lotus - Flower; Hindu symbol of beauty, purity and good fortune.

Manthara - Maid servant who convinced Kaikeyi to have Rama exiled and make Bharata king.

mantra - Hindu prayers or incantations.

Mareecha - The magician who helped Ravana capture Sita.

Nala - Son of the great builder who helped Rama construct the bridge to Lanka.

Panchavati - Rama, Sita and Lakshmana abode in the forest.

payasam - A mixture of rice pudding, milk and sugar.

rakshasas - Warrior-demons.

Ravana - King of Lanka who kidnaped Sita and was defeated by Rama.

Sanyasi - A religious man who lives in a forest - a hermit.

Sarayu - The river that runs alongside Ayodhya.

sari - A garment of yards of cloth draped to form a skirt and head or shoulder covering.

sat-purusa - The ideal Hindu man.

Shiva - The deity whose bow Rama lifted to win Sita's hand in marriage.

Shurpanakha - Ravana's demon sister.

Sita - Daughter of King Janaka, wife of Rama; name literally *furrow*.

Sugriva - Monkey king of Kiskindha who helped Rama get Sita back.

Sumantra - Charioteer of Kosala.

Sumitra - One of Dasaratha's queens and mother of twin sons Satrughna and Lakshmana.

Tataka - Demoness who was killed by Rama.

Valmiki - Poet and author of the Ramayana who helps Sita and her twin sons.

Vasistha - Priest to King Dasaratha.

Vibhishana - Ravana's brother who leaves Lanka to join Rama.

Vishnu - God who came to earth in the form of Rama to rid the world of demons.

Vishwamitra - Religious man; went to forest with Rama to kill the demons that were bothering him.