



WHY DOES OUR HAIR GROW?



Did you know that we humans can have up to 150,000 hairs on our heads? Thousands of years ago, in fact, our ancestors were hairy all over their bodies. This thick body hair has become sparser over time, however.

Little color beads in your hair determine whether you have blond, brown, black or red hair. They are called pigments. With increased age, our bodies produce fewer and fewer of them and our hair gradually turns gray. Hair is made of keratin, the same material that makes up our toenails and fingernails. Hair grows through cells in our scalp. These cells reproduce, become keratin and cause our hair to grow.

Many men go bald as they age. As the hair on their heads stops growing, it sprouts up in other places, such as on their backs, in their noses and in their ears.



MARVELOUS HIGH-RISE HAIRSTYLES

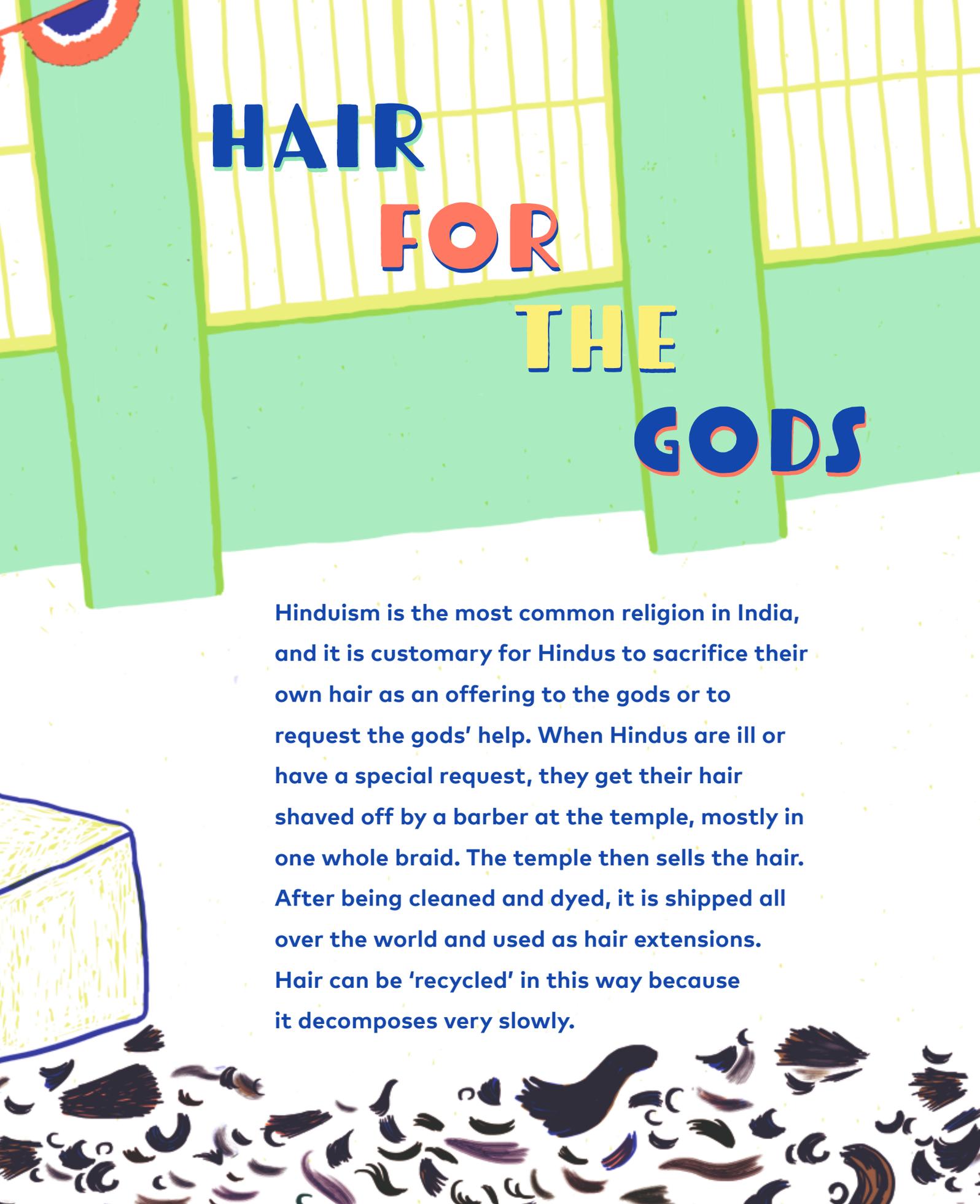
During the Rococo period, about 300 years ago, fine women stacked their hair up high and had precious items woven in to it, such as shells, necklaces, silks, exotic fruit and flowers.

You can imagine how difficult it was to care for such hairstyles. Washing was not possible. That's why these women sprinkled powder into their hair... flour, in fact! After a while, the flour got damp and started to smell. Perfumes helped a bit, but many towered hairstyles provided a cozy haven for lice, mites and bedbugs. On carriages, women had to stretch their heads out of the windows because their elevated hair did not fit. And to ensure that their coiffed hair was not wrecked, they often slept as they were seated.









HAIR FOR THE GODS

Hinduism is the most common religion in India, and it is customary for Hindus to sacrifice their own hair as an offering to the gods or to request the gods' help. When Hindus are ill or have a special request, they get their hair shaved off by a barber at the temple, mostly in one whole braid. The temple then sells the hair. After being cleaned and dyed, it is shipped all over the world and used as hair extensions. Hair can be 'recycled' in this way because it decomposes very slowly.





EVEN MORE HAIRSTYLES



There are so many great hairstyles out there. I've already seen a few today: an elderly woman with turquoise-colored hair, a man with a pigtail at the back, and a girl with dreadlocks. There was also a remarkable beard... as well as long, gleaming red hair, a little dog with a pigtail and a bow, a man with a magnificent lion's mane, a woman with a scarf over her hair, a very pretty ponytail and a rather strange forelock. Which hairstyles have you seen?

