The Vedas Literature Connection: Ganesha’s Birth Story

1. In most ancient cultures – including ancient India – women had very little power. What events in this story show the idea that women can have power?

2. In which paragraph(s) did you find the evidence for this answer? ___

3. Although Parvati is a strong female character in this story, there is something about her that makes Parvati totally different from other women. What is it?

4. In which paragraph did you find the evidence for this answer? ___

5. In Hinduism, Lord Shiva is seen as a powerful god with good and bad characteristics. Based on the story, what do you think is one good characteristic of Lord Shiva?

6. In which paragraph did you find the evidence for this answer? ___

7. Based on the story, what do you think is one bad characteristic of Lord Shiva?

8. In which paragraph did you find the evidence for this answer? ___

6 more on back
9. In Hinduism, Parvati is the “mother goddess,” the goddess of love, fertility and devotion. Based on the story, give one example of why she is viewed this way.

10. In which paragraph did you find your answer? _____

11. Tell one event in the story that shows that Parvati was not always just loving and sweet.

12. In which paragraph did you find your answer? _____

13. Why do you suppose Hindu parents usually give their children an image of Ganesh as their first religious gift (before they give them a statue of any other Hindu god)?

14. In which paragraph did you find the evidence for this answer? _____