

The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance and traditions of Diwali.

Read the story about Pip and the celebration of Diwali, then answer the questions that follow.

Pip the caterpillar was very excited to visit his friend's house for Diwali. As he arrived, he noticed the home looked beautiful. Brightly coloured patterns called rangoli had been created on the floor using coloured powders to welcome guests. Pip saw small oil lamps, known as diyas, flickering in the windows.

"Why are there so many lights, Pip?" asked a small child. Pip remembered what he had read in his books. He explained that Diwali is the Festival of Lights, celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. The lights symbolise the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Inside, the house smelled of delicious sweet treats. Families gather together to share special food, exchange gifts, and wear their finest new clothes. Some people set off fireworks to celebrate the joy of the occasion. For Pip, the best part was seeing how the festival brought everyone together in a spirit of kindness and prosperity. He felt very lucky to learn about this colourful tradition.

Word bank: diya · prosperity · tradition · symbolise

1. What are the patterns on the floor called that are made with coloured powders? (1 mark)

2. Which three religious groups celebrate Diwali according to the text? (1 mark)

3. How do we know that Diwali is a special and formal occasion for the families involved? (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the author describes the diyas as 'flickering' rather than just 'lit'? (2 marks)

5. In your opinion, which part of the Diwali celebrations mentioned in the text is the most important? Explain why using evidence from the passage. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a colourful rangoli pattern and a flickering diya lamp.



Extension challenge: Research a traditional sweet eaten during Diwali and write a short description of what it tastes like.