

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Quest with Ellie

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the narrative structure, themes, and cultural significance of the Diwali story, specifically the return of Rama and Sita.

Join Ellie the elephant as she explores the history of Diwali. Read the key facts about the story of Rama and Sita and answer the questions below to test your knowledge!

Answer Key: 1. A (Rama and Sita); 2. True; 3. 14 years; 4. B (To guide them home); 5. D (All of the above); 6. Rangoli; 7. False (It is a celebration of light over darkness); 8. Ayodhya; 9. Kindness; 10. Courage. Ellie reminds you: Diwali teaches us that goodness always shines brightest!

Word bank: Diwali · Ayodhya · Diyas · Exile · Rama · Sita · Lamps · Victory · Rangoli · Celebration

1. Who are the two main heroes in the traditional Diwali story? A) Rama and Sita* B) Pip and Nova C) Kit and Zara D) Max and Leo (1 mark)

2. True or False: Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights. (1 mark)

3. How many years did Rama and Sita spend in the forest during their exile? (1 mark)

4. Why did the people of the city light rows of clay lamps? A) To scare away animals B) To guide Rama and Sita home* C) To cook food D) To signal the start of winter (1 mark)

5. What do people use to decorate their floors during Diwali? A) Flowers B) Coloured powders C) Sand D) All of the above* (1 mark)

6. What is the name of the beautiful, colourful patterns created on floors during the festival? (1 mark)

7. True or False: The story of Diwali is a sad story about losing things. (1 mark)

8. What is the name of the kingdom that Rama and Sita returned to? (Hint: It starts with A) (1 mark)

9. Which of these is a key theme of Diwali? A) Being unkind B) Kindness* C) Keeping secrets D) Running away (1 mark)

10. Diwali celebrates the victory of light over what? A) Fire B) Darkness* C) Water D) Music (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene showing a row of glowing diyas (small clay lamps) illuminating a path leading to a beautiful, decorated home.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why light is such a powerful symbol in the story of Diwali. 2. Compare and contrast how Diwali is celebrated today versus how it might have been celebrated in ancient times. 3. Justify why the return of Rama and Sita was such an important event for the citizens of Ayodhya. 4. What might happen if the people had forgotten to light the lamps? 5. Why do you think storytelling is important for keeping traditions alive? 6. If you were planning a Diwali celebration, how would you use colour and light to create a welcoming atmosphere?