

Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and the symbolic importance of its traditions.

Ellie the Elephant is learning about the Festival of Lights! Read the statements below. For each one, decide if it is True or False. If the statement is False, you must provide a brief explanation or 'justification' to correct it, demonstrating your deeper understanding of the festival.

Word bank: Diyas · Laxmi · Rangoli · Victory · Light · Darkness · New beginnings

1. True or False: Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights because it represents the victory of darkness over light. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

2. True or False: Rangoli patterns are created using colourful sand, rice, or flower petals at the entrance of homes to welcome guests and prosperity. Explain why this is important. (2 marks)

3. True or False: Diyas are small, electric lightbulbs placed in rows to celebrate the festival. If false, describe what they actually are. (2 marks)

4. True or False: During Diwali, many people exchange gifts and share special sweets with family and friends to celebrate unity. Explain why community is central to this celebration. (2 marks)

5. Compare and contrast: How might the preparations for Diwali differ from a typical birthday celebration in your own life? Consider the themes of reflection and gratitude. (3 marks)

6. Justify your answer: Why do you think the use of light is a universal symbol across many different cultures and festivals, not just during Diwali? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional Rangoli pattern that you might find on a doorstep during Diwali. Use geometric shapes and vibrant colours to create a design that symbolises joy and welcome.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a Diwali celebration for your school. Create a budget plan where you have £50.00 to spend on supplies. List at least four items you would purchase (e.g., clay for diyas, coloured powder for rangoli, decorations) and calculate the total cost, ensuring you stay under budget. Write a short paragraph explaining why your chosen items are significant to the festival.