

Diwali: The Festival of Lights Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali for Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains, and to explain how the festival is celebrated.

Use this template to record your findings about Diwali. Research the traditions and stories associated with this festival, then fill in the boxes below using your own words. Use the word bank to help you express your ideas clearly.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Laxmi · Rama and Sita · Light over darkness · Celebration · Tradition · Community · Good over evil

1. The Story of Diwali: Summarise the significance of the festival. Why do people celebrate the triumph of light over darkness? (3 marks)

2. Traditional Decorations: Describe how Rangoli patterns and Diyas are used. What is the symbolic meaning behind these items? (2 marks)

3. Compare and Contrast: How might a family's celebration of Diwali be similar or different to other festivals you have studied? Justify your answer. (4 marks)

4. Explain why light plays such a central role in the rituals and atmosphere of Diwali. What might happen if these symbols were removed? (3 marks)

5. Reflect and Evaluate: In your opinion, why is it important for communities to come together to celebrate festivals like Diwali? (2 marks)

6. Creative Extension: Imagine you are designing a new Rangoli pattern for your classroom. Describe your design and explain the patterns and colours you would choose to represent the spirit of the festival. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Research a specific region where Diwali is celebrated differently. Write a short paragraph explaining the unique customs found there and compare them to the general traditions you have recorded in your fact-file.