

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

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

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of Diwali to provide detailed answers. Think about the symbols, stories, and traditions associated with the festival.

Diwali is a major festival celebrated by millions of people across the world. Known as the 'Festival of Lights', it represents the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Families prepare for the festival by cleaning their homes, creating colourful patterns, and lighting lamps. In many traditions, it marks the beginning of a new year and is a time for sharing gifts and delicious food with family and friends.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Rama and Sita · Light · Darkness · New beginnings · Devotion

1. Why is Diwali often referred to as the 'Festival of Lights'? Explain what the light represents. (2 marks)

2. Describe what a 'Rangoli' is and explain why people create them during the festival. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey has been invited to a Diwali celebration. If he were to buy a box of traditional sweets for £4.50 and a set of decorative lamps for £3.75, how much would he spend in total? (2 marks)

4. Explain one way in which families prepare their homes before the festival begins. (1 mark)

5. Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. Why might this festival be considered a time of 'new beginnings'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful Rangoli pattern inside a square. Use symmetrical shapes like circles, triangles, and flower petals to make it look bright and welcoming.



Extension challenge: Research the story of Rama and Sita. Write a short paragraph explaining why their return to Ayodhya is such an important part of the Diwali story for many Hindus.