

Festivals of Light and Community

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by exploring the significance of festivals in different cultures.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Festivals are a wonderful way for communities to come together and celebrate shared beliefs, history, or the changing seasons. Across the globe, many cultures use light to mark special occasions. In the UK, we often see brilliant displays of fireworks on bonfire night, which light up the dark autumn sky. Meanwhile, families across the world celebrate festivals like Diwali, the festival of lights, where colourful patterns called rangoli are created on floors to welcome guests and bring good luck. These celebrations are more than just parties; they are important ways to pass down stories and traditions from one generation to the next. Whether it is sharing a special meal, wearing traditional clothing, or lighting candles, these actions help people feel a sense of belonging. Nova the owl often watches these celebrations from the treetops, noting how they bring harmony to the neighbourhood. She observes that while every festival has unique customs, they all share a common goal: to spread joy, show gratitude, and strengthen the bonds of friendship within the community.

Word bank: tradition · community · celebrate · significance · symbolise · customs

1. According to the text, what do people use to mark special occasions in many cultures around the world? (2 marks)

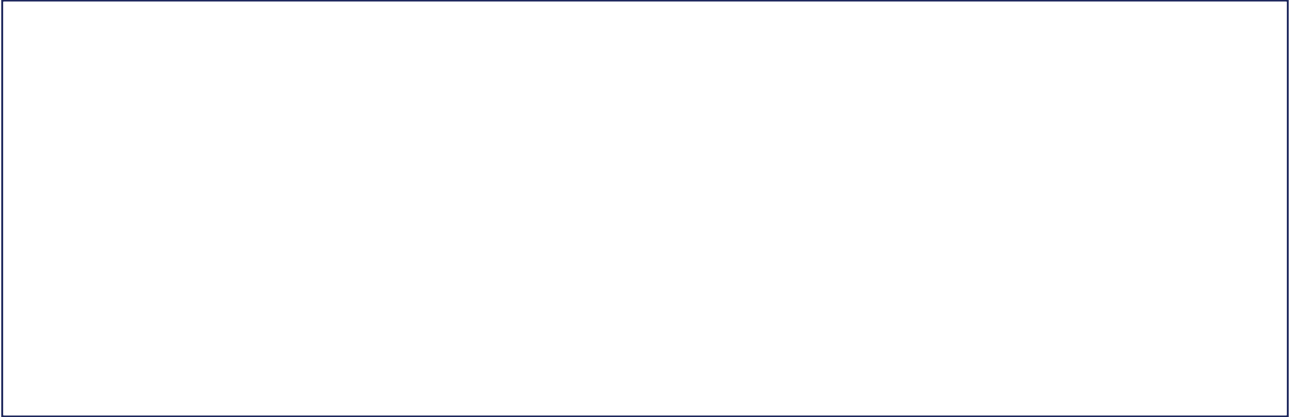
2. What are rangoli, and why are they created during Diwali? (2 marks)

3. Why does the author suggest that festivals are 'more than just parties'? (2 marks)

4. Based on the passage, how do you think a festival helps a person feel like they belong to a community? (2 marks)

5. Do you think festivals are important for society today? Give a reason for your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a festival celebration that includes a source of light, such as a candle, lantern, or fireworks, and a decorative pattern inspired by rangoli.



Extension challenge: Research a festival you have never heard of before. Write three interesting facts about how it is celebrated and what the traditions represent.