

Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To read a short narrative text and answer comprehension questions about the festival of Diwali.

Read the story below with an adult. Think about how the characters celebrate and use the word bank to help you answer the questions.

Ellie the Elephant loves to learn about stories from all around the world. Today, she is learning about Diwali, the festival of lights. During Diwali, families clean their homes and decorate the floors with beautiful patterns called rangoli. They use bright colours and sometimes flower petals. At night, everyone lights small clay lamps called diyas. The glowing light is a sign of hope and happiness. Ellie thinks it is wonderful to see so many twinkling lights. Families share delicious sweets and gifts to celebrate this special time together.

Word bank: Diwali · light · diya · celebrate · family · rangoli

1. What is the name of the festival that Ellie is learning about? (1 mark)

2. What do families use to make beautiful patterns on the floor? (1 mark)

3. What is a diya and why do people light them? (2 marks)

4. Name one thing that families do to celebrate together. (1 mark)

5. Why do you think the festival is called the 'Festival of Lights'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a bright, colourful rangoli pattern and a glowing diya lamp next to it.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a Diwali party. If you bought three paper lanterns for £1 each, how much would you spend in total?