

Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Ellie the Elephant

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

Read the story below carefully with Ellie the Elephant. Think about how the characters feel and why they celebrate. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Ellie the Elephant loves learning about different traditions. Today, she is learning about Diwali, the festival of lights. Diwali is celebrated by millions of people all over the world. The story tells us of a brave prince named Rama who returned home after a long time away. To show him the way in the dark night, the people lit many small clay lamps called divas. They placed them in rows outside their houses. Today, families clean their homes, wear new clothes, and share delicious sweets with their friends. Many people also create beautiful patterns on the floor using coloured powder, which are called rangoli. The festival is a special time to share kindness and celebrate the victory of light over darkness.

Word bank: Diwali · festival · celebrate · diva · tradition · kindness · light

1. Why did the people light the clay lamps when Prince Rama returned home? (2 marks)

2. What are the special patterns made of coloured powder called? (1 mark)

3. List two things that families do to get ready for the festival of Diwali. (2 marks)

4. How do you think the people felt when they saw the light from the lamps? (2 marks)

5. Why do you think Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a bright, glowing diva lamp and decorate the space around it with your own colourful rangoli pattern.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are inviting a friend to a Diwali party. Write three sentences explaining what your favourite part of the festival is and why.