

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali for Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains, and to explore the symbolic meaning behind its traditions.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge and the provided word bank to answer in full, descriptive sentences. Think deeply about the significance of the traditions mentioned.

Diwali is widely known as the Festival of Lights. It is a time of great joy, marked by the lighting of clay lamps, the creation of colourful floor patterns, and the sharing of delicious sweets. Families come together to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. During this time, many people clean their homes, wear new clothes, and offer prayers to welcome prosperity and happiness into their lives.

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

1. Max the monkey is confused about why people light small clay lamps called 'Diyas'. Explain the symbolic meaning of these lights in the context of Diwali. (2 marks)

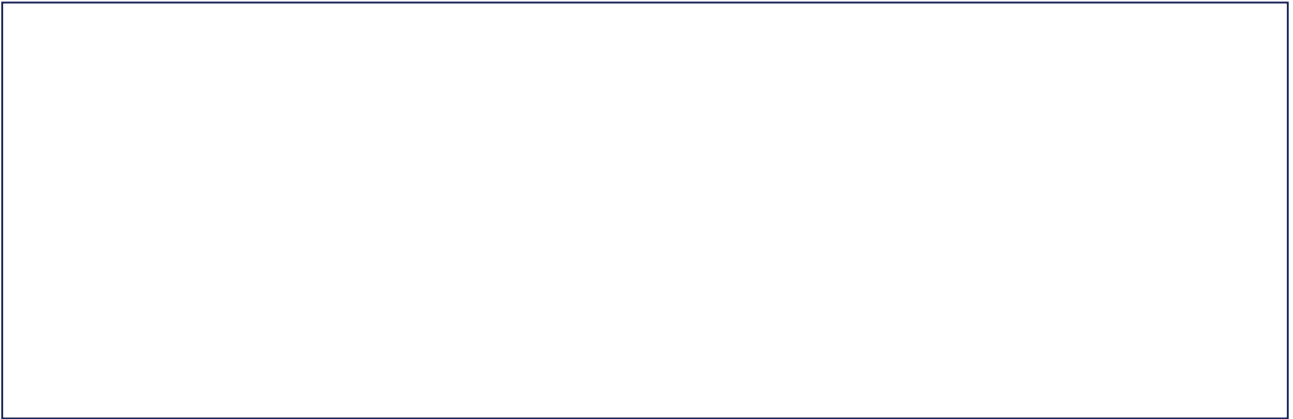
2. Compare and contrast how families prepare their homes for Diwali compared to how they might prepare for a normal day. Why is this preparation significant? (3 marks)

3. Zara the zebra loves patterns. Explain the purpose of 'Rangoli' and justify why these intricate patterns are placed at the entrance of a home. (2 marks)

4. What might happen if a community decided to celebrate Diwali without any light or colour? Explain how this would change the atmosphere and meaning of the festival. (3 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant remembers that Diwali is celebrated by different religions for different reasons. Briefly describe one reason why Hindus celebrate this festival. (2 marks)

Draw: Design your own Rangoli pattern in the space below. Remember to use symmetrical shapes and vibrant colours to represent happiness and light.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem or a persuasive paragraph explaining why the theme of 'light overcoming darkness' is a universal message that people of all backgrounds can appreciate. Use at least three words from the word bank in your writing.