

Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the cultural significance and narrative themes of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, through sequencing and descriptive writing.

Ellie the Elephant loves history and stories from around the world. She has been learning about the story of Diwali, which celebrates the victory of light over darkness. Below are the key events of the traditional story. Use your knowledge to sequence the events correctly by numbering them 1 to 6 in the boxes provided.

Word bank: Diwali · Ayodhya · Rama · Sita · Diyas · Rangoli · Victory · Darkness · Light

1. [] Prince Rama and Princess Sita return home to the kingdom of Ayodhya after many years of exile.
2. [] The people of the kingdom light thousands of clay lamps (diyas) to guide the couple home.
3. [] Good triumphs over evil, symbolised by the light overcoming the darkness.
4. [] The story is retold every year during the festival of Diwali.
5. [] Families clean their homes and create beautiful patterns on the floor called rangoli.
6. [] Everyone celebrates with joy, sharing sweets and gifts with their neighbors. (6 marks)

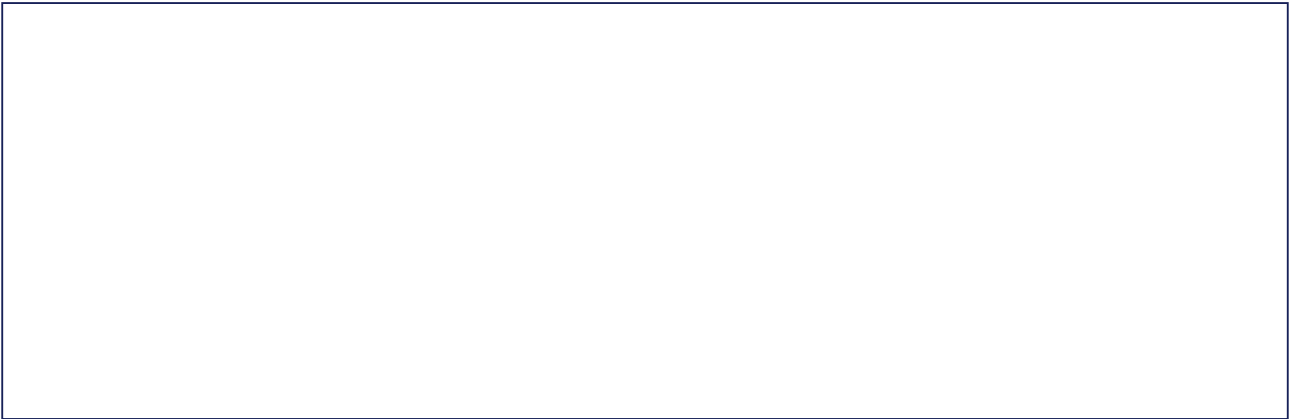
2. Why do you think light is used as a symbol for goodness in the story of Diwali? Write your answer in full sentences. (3 marks)

3. If you were preparing for a festival of lights, what special food or gift would you share with your friends and why? (2 marks)

4. Explain the significance of the 'diyas' (clay lamps) in the Diwali narrative. (2 marks)

5. True or False: Diwali is only celebrated by people who live in India. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern inside a circle. Think about the shapes, symmetry, and bright colors that Ellie would love to see to make a home look welcoming.



Extension challenge: Research how families might budget for Diwali celebrations. If a box of sweets costs £4.50 and a set of five decorative diyas costs £3.75, how much would it cost to buy two boxes of sweets and two sets of diyas?