

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the cultural significance of Diwali and identify key narrative elements within the story of Rama and Sita.

Read the questions carefully and answer using your knowledge of the festival of Diwali. Remember to use full sentences and explain your reasoning where required.

In the story of Diwali, Prince Rama and his wife Sita return to their home city of Ayodhya after many years of exile. To guide them home on a moonless night, the people lit thousands of clay lamps, known as diyas, creating a path of light. This victory of light over darkness and good over evil is celebrated annually by millions through family gatherings, colorful patterns, and shared feasts.

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

1. Why did the people of Ayodhya light thousands of diyas when Rama and Sita returned home? (2 marks)

2. What does the festival of Diwali symbolise in terms of the battle between good and evil? (2 marks)

3. If you were planning a Diwali celebration, name two activities you would include to reflect the 'Festival of Lights'. (2 marks)

4. Explain how the setting of the story (a moonless night) makes the act of lighting the diyas more important. (3 marks)

5. Max the monkey wants to calculate the cost of buying 12 clay diyas at £0.50 each. How much will he spend in total? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a traditional Rangoli pattern. Remember to use symmetrical shapes and bright colors to represent the joy of the festival.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem, in the style of Leo the lion, about the feeling of warmth and hope that a single candle brings to a dark room.