

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To explain the significance of Diwali and describe how it is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains.

Use the prompts below to structure your report. Use descriptive language to explain the importance of light over darkness and good over evil.

Diwali, often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a vibrant and joyous occasion celebrated by millions of people across the world.

Word bank: significance · tradition · celebrate · triumph · illuminated · reflection · devotion · furthermore · consequently · symbolises · community

1. The Origins of Diwali: Explain why Diwali is celebrated. What does the lighting of the lamps (diyas) represent to those who observe the festival? (3 marks)

2. Preparing for the Festival: Describe the preparations families might make in their homes to welcome the festival. Why is cleanliness and decoration so important? (2 marks)

3. Rituals and Traditions: Compare and contrast how different families might spend their time during the festival. What specific activities take place? (3 marks)

4. Personal Reflection: Explain why the message of 'light over darkness' remains relevant in the modern world today. (2 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why do you think sharing food and gifts is a central part of the Diwali experience? (3 marks)

6. What might happen if a community decided to celebrate Diwali without any artificial lights? How would the atmosphere change? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative journalist like Kit the fox. Write a short diary entry describing a visit to a Diwali celebration. Include sensory details about the sounds, smells, and sights you encounter, and conclude with a paragraph explaining why this festival promotes unity and peace.