

The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by retrieving information, making inferences, and justifying opinions about the story of Diwali.

Read the story carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand tricky words. Answer the questions in the boxes provided. If you get stuck, look back at the text.

Max the monkey and Ellie the elephant were excited. They were learning about Diwali, the festival of lights. Ellie remembered a story from long ago. It was about a prince named Rama who returned home after a long time away. The people were so happy to see him that they lit thousands of small clay lamps called divas. The lamps glowed brightly in the night, showing Rama the way home. The light symbolised the victory of good over bad. Today, families celebrate Diwali by cleaning their homes, wearing new clothes, and sharing delicious sweets. They also make patterns on the floor called rangoli using bright colours. Max thought it sounded like a wonderful way to bring people together. He liked the idea that light could chase away the shadows. Together, they made their own paper divas to decorate their classroom. They wanted their space to feel warm and welcoming for everyone. Diwali is a time for kindness, family, and hope. It reminds people that even a tiny light can make a big difference in the dark.

Word bank: Diwali: A Hindu festival of lights · diva: A small clay lamp · victory: Winning against something · celebration: A happy event · tradition: Something done for a long time

1. What are the small clay lamps called in the story? (1 mark)

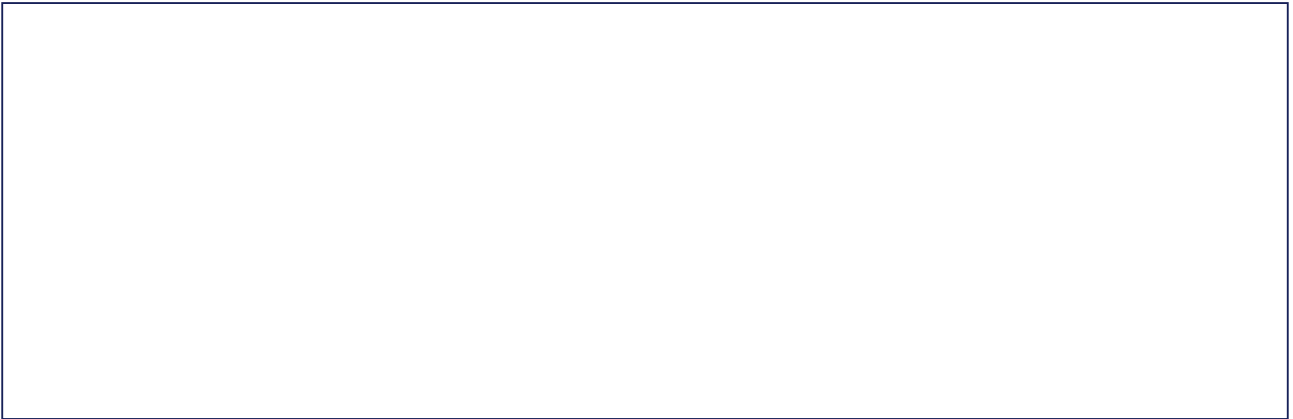
2. List two things that families do to celebrate Diwali. (2 marks)

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

4. How do you think Max and Ellie feel about learning about new traditions? Use evidence from the text to explain. (2 marks)

5. Why do you think light is an important symbol for this festival? Explain your own opinion. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a glowing diva lamp sitting on a colourful rangoli pattern made of dots and shapes.



Extension challenge: Write one sentence about a special celebration that your family or friends enjoy.