

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the meaning and traditions of Diwali.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand tricky words. Answer the questions in full sentences.

Diwali is a famous festival celebrated by millions of people across the world. It is known as the Festival of Lights. Families clean their homes to get ready for the special day. They believe this welcomes good luck and happiness into their houses. During Diwali, people light many small clay lamps called diyas. These lamps are placed in rows along windows and doors. The bright light is meant to show the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Many people also create beautiful patterns on their floors using bright coloured powders; these patterns are called rangoli. Families share delicious sweets and gifts with their friends and neighbours. It is a very happy time for everyone. Some families even set off fireworks to celebrate in the night sky. Ellie the elephant loves learning about Diwali because it is a time when families come together to be kind and share joy. She thinks the bright colours and the twinkling lights make the world look magical.

Word bank: Diwali: A Hindu festival of lights. · Diyas: Small clay lamps filled with oil. · Rangoli: Patterns made on the floor using coloured powder. · Celebrate: To show joy for a special event. · Tradition: A custom passed down through families.

1. What are the small clay lamps used during Diwali called? (2 marks)

2. Name two things people do to celebrate Diwali. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families clean their homes before the festival begins? (2 marks)

4. What does the light from the diyas represent? (2 marks)

5. Would you like to celebrate Diwali with your friends? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a bright, colourful rangoli pattern and some lit diyas.



Extension challenge: Write three sentences about a special tradition your family has. Use the word 'celebrate' in your writing.