

The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To develop retrieval, inference, and evaluative skills through a non-fiction text about Diwali.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Diwali is a beautiful festival celebrated by millions of people across the world. Known as the Festival of Lights, it is a time when families gather to mark the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During this special time, homes are cleaned from top to bottom and decorated with colourful patterns made from coloured powder or rice, which are called rangoli. Many families place small clay lamps, known as diyas, around their homes to create a warm and welcoming glow. The flickering light represents hope and happiness. People often wear their best clothes and share delicious sweets and snacks with their friends and neighbours. Some families enjoy watching firework displays that light up the night sky, while others spend time in quiet prayer or reflection. It is a wonderful time for families to be together, exchange gifts, and look forward to a bright future. Pip the caterpillar loves reading about how different cultures celebrate, and this is one of his favourite stories to share with his friends because it focuses on kindness and joy.

Word bank: Diwali · tradition · celebration · festival · light · custom

1. What is another name for the festival of Diwali? (1 mark)

2. Name two ways that people decorate their homes for Diwali. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think people light clay lamps, called diyas, during the festival? (2 marks)

4. How do you think the atmosphere in a family home feels during Diwali? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for people to have festivals like Diwali? Give a reason for your opinion. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern on the floor of a home and add some glowing clay lamps (diyas) around the edges.



Extension challenge: Research what kind of special foods are traditionally eaten during Diwali and write a short menu for a celebration feast.