

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Quiz with Ellie the Elephant

Learning objective: To demonstrate comprehension of the Diwali narrative, including its cultural significance and key themes of light triumphing over darkness.

Read the story of Diwali carefully and use your knowledge of this historic festival to answer the questions below. Ellie the Elephant has checked your facts—now it is your turn to shine!

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.False, 4.Ayodhya, 5.B, 6.D, 7.A, 8.True, 9.Rama, 10.Light. Greater Depth: 1. Diwali symbolises the victory of good over evil. 2. The lights guide Rama home. 3. Answers will vary; look for emotional resonance. 4. Contrast: The exile was a time of sadness and hardship, whereas the return was a time of jubilation. 5. 'Light' represents knowledge and hope. 6. Justification should link to community and family values.

Word bank: Diwali · Rama · Sita · Lanka · Diyas · Rangoli · Victory · Exile · Ayodhya · Festival

1. 1. Who is the central prince in the traditional story of Diwali? A) King Ravana B) Prince Lakshmana C) Prince Rama* D) Lord Ganesha (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The festival of Diwali is often referred to as the 'Festival of Lights'. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: The story of Diwali celebrates a time when Rama was forced to leave his kingdom for only one week. (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the name of the kingdom that Prince Rama returned to after his long exile? (1 mark)

5. 5. What are the small clay lamps lit during Diwali called? A) Rangoli B) Diyas* C) Mandirs D) Torans (1 mark)

6. 6. Why did the people of the kingdom light lamps across the streets? A) To see in the dark B) To find lost coins C) To decorate the walls D) To guide Rama home* (1 mark)

7. 7. What intricate patterns are created on floors using coloured powders? A) Rangoli* B) Henna C) Batik D) Origami (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Diwali signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. (1 mark)

9. 9. Name the wife of Prince Rama who accompanied him during his journey. (1 mark)

10. 10. In many traditions, what does the lighting of the flame represent? (1 word) (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a traditional Diya lamp. Surround it with colourful, symmetrical Rangoli patterns. Think about how you can use line and shape to make your design look vibrant and celebratory.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the return of Prince Rama is such a significant moment in the story. 2. Compare and contrast the atmosphere in the kingdom during the exile versus the atmosphere upon Rama's return. 3. Justify your answer: Why is light a more effective symbol than darkness for this festival? 4. What might happen if the people had forgotten to light the lamps upon his arrival? 5. Reflecting on the theme of 'good over evil', write a short paragraph explaining a modern-day scenario where this value might be applied. 6. How does the act of creating Rangoli patterns reflect the importance of community and preparation in cultural celebrations?