

Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Pip and Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance and key traditions of Diwali through sequencing and descriptive writing.

Pip the bookworm and Ellie the elephant are learning about Diwali, the festival of lights. Below is a list of events and traditions that take place during the celebration. Your task is to sequence these events logically to tell the story of the festival, then use the word bank to write a descriptive paragraph about how a family might prepare their home.

Word bank: rangoli · diyas · tradition · celebration · illumination · prosperity · festive · gathering

1. Sequence these events from 1 to 6: (A) Families light small oil lamps called diyas, (B) People clean and decorate their homes, (C) Families share sweet treats and gifts, (D) Colourful rangoli patterns are created on the floor, (E) New clothes are worn for the celebration, (F) Fireworks light up the night sky. (6 marks)

2. Why do you think families place diyas outside their homes during Diwali? Use evidence from your knowledge of the festival. (2 marks)

3. Define the term 'rangoli' and explain why it is an important part of the artistic tradition of Diwali. (2 marks)

4. Using at least three words from the word bank, write a paragraph describing the atmosphere in a home during Diwali preparations. (3 marks)

5. Ellie the elephant has a great memory; can you explain why Diwali is often called the 'Festival of Lights'? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, symmetrical rangoli pattern using geometric shapes, just like Zara the zebra would design!



Extension challenge: Research the story of Rama and Sita. Write a short, three-sentence summary from the perspective of Pip the bookworm, explaining why the light is so important to this story.