

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the cultural significance, key narrative elements, and traditions associated with the festival of Diwali.

Read the front of the flashcard to test your knowledge of Diwali. Flip the card mentally (or check the answer provided) to see if you are correct. Pip the bookworm and Ellie the elephant suggest saying the answers out loud to help them stick in your memory!

What does the word 'Deepavali' literally mean in Sanskrit?	Which legendary prince returns home to the city of Ayodhya in the Diwali story?
A row of lamps.	Prince Rama.
What are 'diyas' and why are they lit during the festival?	What is the name of the colourful patterns created on the floor using coloured sand or flower petals?
Diyas are small oil lamps lit to guide Rama and Sita home and symbolise the triumph of light over darkness.	Rangoli.
What is the central theme of the Diwali story regarding the battle between light and dark?	Who is the wife of Prince Rama who returns with him from exile?
The victory of good over evil (and light over darkness).	Sita.
How long was Prince Rama sent into exile before his return to Ayodhya?	Diwali is often associated with which Hindu goddess of wealth and prosperity?
Fourteen years.	Lakshmi.
Why do people clean their homes thoroughly before Diwali begins?	True or False: Diwali is celebrated only by people living in India.
To welcome prosperity and make the home pure for the goddess Lakshmi.	False, it is celebrated by millions of people across the world.
What do families often exchange with friends and neighbours during the festival?	What does the light of the diya represent in a metaphorical sense?
Sweets and small gifts.	The inner light that protects every home from spiritual darkness.