

Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To test reading comprehension and cultural knowledge regarding the significance and traditions of the Diwali festival.

Read the summary passage carefully and answer the 10 questions below. Pip the Bookworm is waiting to see how many you can get correct!

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is a major celebration observed by millions of people globally. The festival symbolises the spiritual 'victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance'. One of the most famous stories associated with Diwali is the return of Prince Rama and his wife, Sita, to their kingdom after fourteen years of exile. To guide them home on a dark, moonless night, the local people lit rows of clay lamps, known as diyas. Today, families celebrate by cleaning their homes, wearing new clothes, and creating colourful rangoli patterns on the floor using powders or flower petals. It is a time for sharing gifts, eating sweets, and lighting fireworks to celebrate hope.

Word bank: Diwali · Dharma · Rama · Sita · Diya · Rangoli · Victory · Festival · Light · Tradition

1. 1. What is the common name for Diwali? A) The Festival of Stars B) The Festival of Lights* C) The Celebration of Colour D) The Moon Festival (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Diwali celebrates the victory of darkness over light. (1 mark)

3. 3. Who were the two main figures mentioned in the story who returned from exile? (One word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. How many years were Rama and Sita in exile? A) 7 B) 10 C) 14* D) 20 (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the name of the clay lamp used to light the way for Rama and Sita? (One word answer) (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Rangoli patterns are traditionally created on the ceiling. (1 mark)

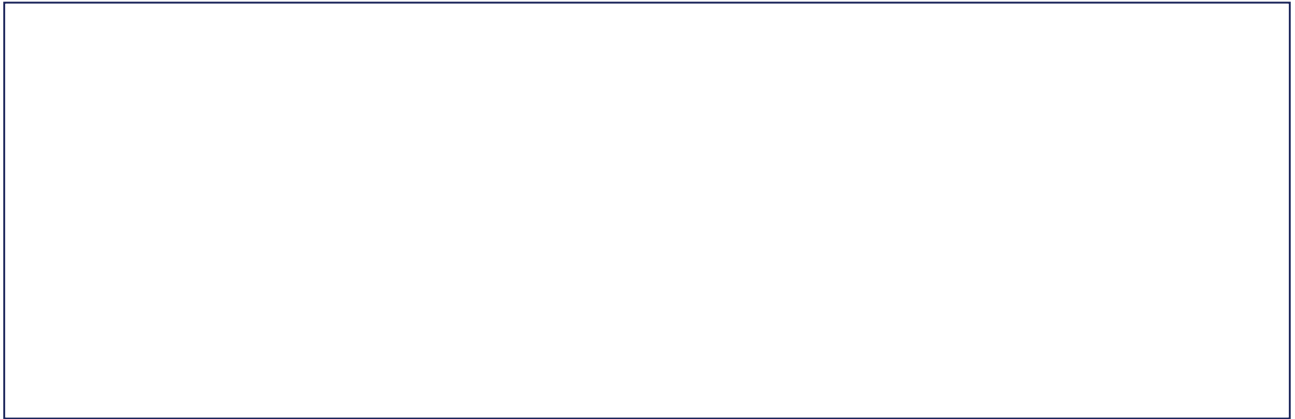
7. 7. What do families often do to prepare their homes for Diwali? A) Paint them blue B) Clean them* C) Build extensions D) Plant trees (1 mark)

8. 8. Diwali represents the victory of what over ignorance? (One word answer) (1 mark)

9. 9. Which materials are used to create Rangoli patterns? A) Plastic and metal B) Oil and water C) Powders or flower petals* D) Paint and glue (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: Diwali is celebrated by millions of people globally. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, symmetrical Rangoli pattern that you might find on a floor during Diwali. Use bright colours and geometric shapes.



Extension challenge: Research one other festival from a different culture that also uses light as a central theme. Write a short paragraph explaining how it is similar to or different from Diwali.