

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Tale

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by analysing the themes and narrative structure of the Diwali story.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below. Use your best handwriting and ensure your answers reflect the information provided in the text.

Diwali, often called the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration observed by millions of people across the globe. At the heart of this festival lies the story of Rama and Sita. After being sent into exile for fourteen years, Prince Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshmana faced many challenges. The legend tells of a great battle against a powerful king, which Rama eventually won through his courage and righteousness. As they returned to their home in Ayodhya, the citizens were overjoyed. To guide them home on a moonless night, the people lit thousands of oil lamps, known as diyas, creating a path of golden light. This act symbolised the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Today, families prepare for Diwali by cleaning their homes, creating colourful patterns called rangoli on their floors, and sharing delicious sweets. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and the promise of new beginnings.

Word bank: Diwali · tradition · triumph · prosperity · diya · celebration · virtue

1. Why did the citizens of Ayodhya light thousands of oil lamps when Rama and Sita returned? (2 marks)

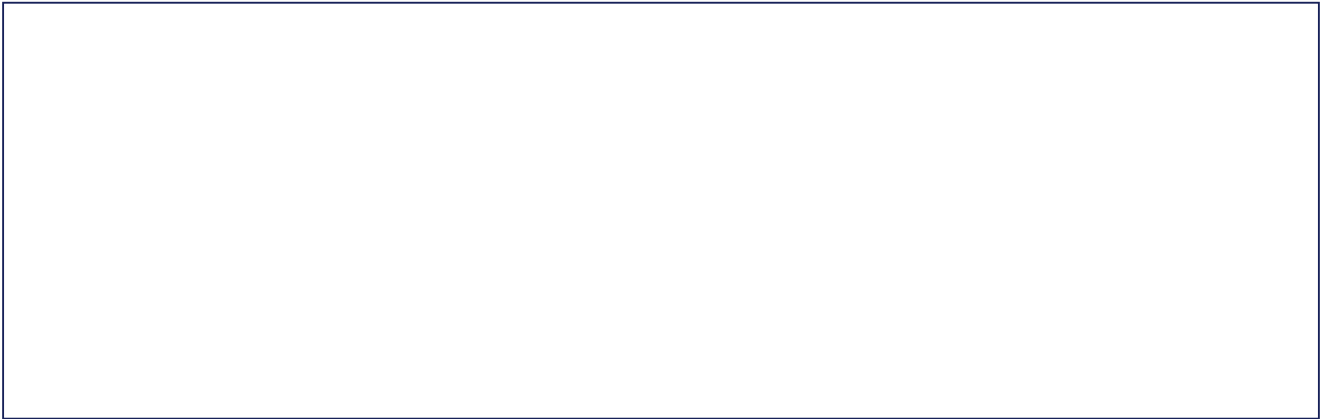
2. What does the act of lighting diyas symbolise according to the text? (1 mark)

3. Based on the passage, list three ways in which modern families prepare for the festival of Diwali. (3 marks)

4. The text mentions that Rama won his battle through 'courage and righteousness'. Explain what you think these two qualities mean in your own words. (2 marks)

5. Why is Diwali often referred to as a time for 'new beginnings'? (2 marks)

Draw: Pip the caterpillar is watching a Diwali celebration. Draw a picture of a room decorated for the festival, including a beautiful rangoli pattern on the floor and several glowing diyas.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining the history of Diwali to a friend. Write a short paragraph of 50-70 words summarising why the festival is important, using at least three words from the word bank.