

The Festival of Lights: Understanding Diwali

Learning objective: To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the traditions, significance, and storytelling behind Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of Diwali to provide thoughtful, well-structured answers. Remember to check your spelling and use full sentences where required.

Diwali is a major festival celebrated by millions of people across the world. Often referred to as the Festival of Lights, it symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Families clean their homes, decorate with colourful Rangoli patterns, and light small clay lamps called Diyas. The festival is rooted in ancient stories, such as the return of Prince Rama and his wife Sita to their kingdom after fourteen years of exile, where the people lit rows of lamps to guide their way home.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Rama · Sita · Victory · Dharma · Celebration · Illumination

1. Explain the symbolic meaning behind the lighting of 'Diyas' during Diwali. Why is light an important theme in this festival? (2 marks)

2. Based on the story mentioned in the passage, why did the people of the kingdom light lamps to welcome Rama and Sita? (2 marks)

3. Describe what a 'Rangoli' is and explain why it is used as a decorative feature during the festival. (2 marks)

4. If you were planning a Diwali celebration for your class, which two traditions would you include and why? (3 marks)

5. Define the phrase 'victory of light over darkness' in your own words. How does this concept apply to the themes of Diwali? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a vibrant Rangoli pattern. Use geometric shapes and symmetrical designs to create a piece of art that represents the joy and brightness of the Diwali festival.



Extension challenge: Max the monkey is helping his friends prepare for a Diwali feast. He has £25.50 to spend on decorations. If he buys 6 packs of candles at £2.20 each and 4 bags of colourful powder for Rangoli at £1.75 each, how much money will he have left for sweets?