

The Festival of Lights: Diwali Exploration

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and identify how it is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains through symbolic actions and traditions.

Max the monkey has been busy calculating the costs of a community Diwali celebration, while Ellie the elephant has been researching the history. Look at the list of items and traditions below. Sort them into two categories: 'Symbols of Light' and 'Acts of Kindness/Preparation'. Then, answer the deeper thinking questions to demonstrate your understanding.

Word bank: Diya lamps · Rangoli patterns · Giving to charity · Cleaning the home · Fireworks · New clothes · Sharing mithai (sweets) · Family gatherings

1. Choose two items from the word bank. Explain why they are significant to the celebration of Diwali. How does each item represent the triumph of light over darkness? (4 marks)

2. Max the monkey is buying 12 boxes of mithai for a party. Each box costs £4.50. How much will he spend in total? Show your working out. (2 marks)

3. Justify why cleaning the home is considered a vital preparation for Diwali rather than just a household chore. What does this symbolise? (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how Diwali is celebrated by different groups (Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains). What are the common themes that unite these celebrations? (4 marks)

5. What might happen if a family chose to celebrate Diwali without using any light-based symbols? Would it still be considered the 'Festival of Lights'? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

6. If you were organising a community Diwali event with a budget of £100, create a simple plan of how you would spend the money to reflect the spirit of the festival. (4 marks)

Draw: Design a symmetrical Rangoli pattern that could be placed at the entrance of a home to welcome guests. Use geometric shapes and think about the colour balance.



Extension challenge: Write a short poem from the perspective of a small Diya lamp sitting on a windowsill on Diwali night. Describe the scene you see and how you feel about your role in the festival.