

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Illuminate your understanding and celebrate the triumph of light over darkness!

- **Diwali is celebrated as a time when light triumphs over darkness and good over evil; how do families physically represent this belief in their homes?**
- **Intricate patterns known as Rangoli are created on floors using coloured powders or sand; what is the cultural purpose of these artistic decorations?**
- **Many people worship Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, during Diwali; why is it traditional to thoroughly clean and decorate homes before the festival begins?**
- **The festival holds different meanings for different faiths, such as the return of Lord Rama for Hindus or the release of Guru Hargobind Ji for Sikhs; how does this show that Diwali is a festival of unity?**
- **Beyond the light displays, Diwali is a time for 'Seva' or selfless service; in what ways might communities demonstrate this value during the five days of celebration?**

Did you know? Did you know? Diwali is not just a single day of celebration! It is a five-day festival. The third day is usually the main event, where families gather to light clay lamps called diyas, share delicious sweets, and set off fireworks to mark the new moon's darkest night.

Key vocabulary: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Dharma · Deities · Prosperity · Celebration