

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Quiz with Nova

Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and symbolic meanings of Diwali within the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain faiths.

Join Nova the owl for a flight through the traditions of Diwali! Read the information carefully and answer the questions below to earn your 'Festival Expert' badge.

Diwali, the festival of lights, is a major celebration observed by millions across the world. It symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Families decorate their homes with 'diyas' (oil lamps) and vibrant 'rangoli' patterns made of coloured sand or petals. In Hinduism, it often marks the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom. In Sikhism, it commemorates Bandi Chhor Divas, and in Jainism, it marks the attainment of moksha by Mahavira. It is a time for sharing sweets, wearing new clothes, and reflecting on inner peace.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Rama · Light · Darkness · Celebration · Goodness

1. What does the lighting of diyas symbolically represent? A) The start of winter B) The victory of light over darkness* C) The harvest moon D) The changing of the tides (1 mark)

2. True or False: Rangoli patterns are traditionally made from ice. (1 mark)

3. What is the name of the oil lamps used during Diwali? (1 mark)

4. Which religious group celebrates Bandi Chhor Divas during this time? A) Christians B) Buddhists C) Sikhs* D) Taoists (1 mark)

5. In Hindu tradition, Diwali often celebrates the return of which figure to his kingdom? A) Krishna B) Rama* C) Ganesha D) Shiva (1 mark)

6. True or False: Diwali is celebrated only by people living in India. (1 mark)

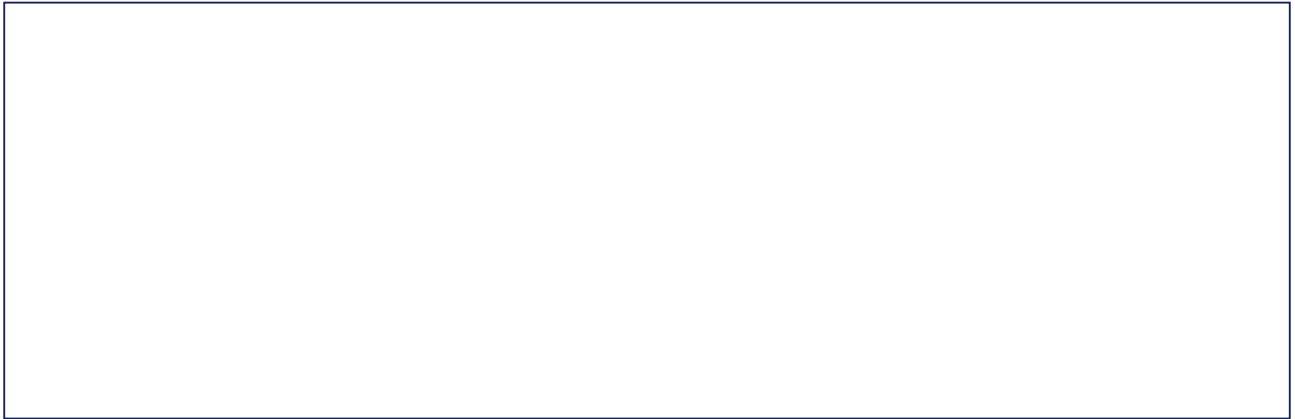
7. What are often shared between family and friends as a gesture of kindness during Diwali? (1 mark)

8. Why do families clean their homes thoroughly before the festival begins? A) To prepare for guests B) To welcome good fortune and prosperity* C) To prepare for spring cleaning D) Because of a tradition involving rain (1 mark)

9. Which material is NOT typically used for rangoli designs? A) Coloured sand B) Flower petals C) Coloured rice D) Wet concrete* (1 mark)

10. True or False: Diwali marks the victory of knowledge over ignorance. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, symmetrical Rangoli pattern that you might find on a doorstep during Diwali, incorporating geometric shapes and floral motifs.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why light is such a powerful symbol in many different cultures. 2. Compare and contrast the way a family might prepare for Diwali compared to a secular celebration like a birthday. 3. Justify why the concept of 'victory of good over evil' is a universal theme in human history. 4. What might happen if a family chose not to light diyas during Diwali? 5. If you were designing a new tradition for a festival of lights, what would it involve? 6. Analyse how the preparation of food acts as a way to bring a community together during religious festivals.