

Diwali: The Festival of Lights Fact-File

Learning objective: To research and explain the significance, traditions, and symbolism of Diwali within the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain faiths.

Use your research skills to complete this fact-file. Think like Nova the owl—be curious, look for evidence, and describe how these traditions bring communities together. Write in full, clear sentences and use precise terminology.

Word bank: Diwali · Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Rama and Sita · Good over evil · Festival of Lights · Tradition · Symbolism · Community

1. Origins and Significance: Briefly explain the historical or religious reasons why Diwali is celebrated. What does the victory of light over darkness represent? (3 marks)

2. The Role of Light: Describe the importance of 'diyas' during the festival. Why do you think light is such a powerful symbol in religious celebrations? (3 marks)

3. Artistic Expressions: Explain the purpose of creating a 'rangoli' pattern. How does this creative act reflect the values of the festival? (2 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare how Diwali is celebrated in the UK to how it might be celebrated in India. What elements remain the same and what might differ due to the environment? (4 marks)

5. Justify Your Answer: Why is Diwali considered a time for 'new beginnings'? Use examples from your research to support your reasoning. (4 marks)

6. Reflection: If you were to design a celebration that focuses on 'light' for your own community, what symbols would you use and why? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are an investigative reporter. Write a newspaper article (150 words) describing the atmosphere of a Diwali celebration in a busy city. Include a quote from a local resident about what the festival means to their family. Then, explain why you think festivals like Diwali are important for social cohesion in modern British society.