

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

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

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge about the Festival of Lights. Read the front, try to answer, then check the back for the key facts.

What is the name of the festival known as the 'Festival of Lights'?

Diwali, which is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains.

What are 'diyas'?

Small oil lamps traditionally made of clay, lit to symbolise the victory of light over darkness.

What is a 'rangoli'?

A beautiful, colourful pattern made on the floor near an entrance to welcome guests and bring good luck.

Which goddess is often worshipped during Diwali to bring prosperity and wealth?

Goddess Lakshmi.

In the story of Rama and Sita, why were lights placed to guide them home?

To guide them back to their kingdom of Ayodhya after 14 years of exile and a great battle.

Why is Diwali considered a time for 'New Beginnings'?

It marks the start of a new year in some calendars and is a time to clear away the old and welcome the new.

How do fireworks play a part in Diwali celebrations?

They are used to celebrate the triumph of good over evil and to add joy to the festival.

Compare and contrast: How is the lighting of a diya similar to other celebrations you know?

Many cultures use light to represent hope and warmth during winter or special festivals.

Explain why families clean their homes thoroughly before Diwali begins.

It is a way to prepare the home to welcome Goddess Lakshmi, symbolising purity and fresh starts.

Justify why Diwali is often called the 'Festival of Lights'.

Because light is the central theme, it represents knowledge, hope, and the victory of good over evil across many traditions.

What might happen if a family chose not to light a diya during Diwali?

They might miss the symbolic act of inviting light and positivity into their home, as the diya is central to the ritual.

Nova the owl is stargazing. If she saw a home decorated for Diwali, what would she see from the sky?

She would see the warm, flickering glow of many diyas and the bright colours of rangoli patterns on the ground.