

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Join Zara the Zebra on a colourful journey to discover the magic of Diwali!

- Diwali is known as the Festival of Lights because families decorate their homes with rows of bright, flickering clay lamps called diyas.
- People create beautiful, colourful patterns on the floor near their doorways using coloured sand or flower petals; these are called rangoli designs.
- For many, Diwali is a time to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and good over evil, bringing families together for special meals.
- New clothes are often worn during the festival, and many people exchange gifts and delicious sweets with their friends and neighbours.
- The festival lasts for five days, with the most important celebrations happening on the night of the new moon.

Did you know? Did you know? The word 'Diwali' comes from the Sanskrit word 'Deepavali', which means 'a row of lights'. Many families place beautiful glowing oil lamps called diyas outside their homes to welcome light and happiness!

Key vocabulary: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Deepavali · Celebration · Tradition