Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and identify key traditions and stories associated with it.

Join Ellie the Elephant on an exploration of Diwali! Read the facts carefully and answer the questions below to test your knowledge of this vibrant celebration.

Answer Key: 1. A (Light), 2. True, 3. Sita, 4. B (Rangoli), 5. True, 6. Clay, 7. C (New beginnings/Prosperity), 8. False, 9. Rama, 10. To celebrate the victory of good over evil. (Note: These questions cover the core concepts of Diwali suitable for Year 3 pupils).

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Rama · Sita · Light · Victory · Good · Evil

1. 1. What does 'Diwali' literally mean? A) Festival of Flowers, B) Festival of Lights*, C) Festival of Sweets, D) Festival of Rain. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Diwali is celebrated by people of many different faiths, including Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. (1 mark)

3. 3. In the story of Diwali, which princess returns home with Prince Rama? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. What do families create on the floor using coloured powders or sand? A) A map, B) Rangoli*, C) A rug, D) A painting. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: It is traditional to wear old, torn clothes during the festival to show humility. (1 mark)

6. 6. What material are traditional 'diyas' usually made from? (1 mark)

7. 7. Why do people clean their homes thoroughly before Diwali? A) To prepare for winter, B) Because it is a chore, C) To welcome goodness and prosperity*, D) To hide from guests. (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Diwali is always celebrated on the same date every single year on the calendar. (1 mark)

9. 9. Who is the Prince that returned to his kingdom after 14 years of exile? (One-word answer) (1 mark)

10. 10. In your own words, what is the main message behind the celebration of Diwali? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful Rangoli pattern using geometric shapes like squares, triangles, and circles. Make sure to use bright, bold colours!

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why light is such an important symbol during Diwali. 2. Compare and contrast how Diwali is celebrated today compared to how it might have been celebrated hundreds of years ago. 3. Justify why cleaning the house is considered a spiritual act rather than just a physical one. 4. What might happen if a family chose not to light any diyas during the festival? 5. If you were hosting a Diwali feast, what items would you include and why? 6. Analyse why storytelling is an essential part of keeping cultural traditions alive for future generations.