A Bright Celebration: Diwali

Learning objective: To understand the traditions and significance of Diwali as a religious festival.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions below in full sentences.

Diwali is a beautiful festival of light celebrated by millions of people across the world. It is known as the 'Festival of Lights' because families light small oil lamps, called divas, to place around their homes. The warm glow of the lamps represents the victory of light over darkness and goodness over evil. During Diwali, Zara the zebra loves to help her friends create colourful rangoli patterns on the floor near their front doors. These patterns are made using bright powders, rice, or flower petals to welcome happiness into the home. Families often wear their finest clothes, share delicious sweets with neighbours, and exchange gifts to show kindness. In some places, the night sky is filled with bright fireworks to mark the special occasion. It is a time for families to gather together, tidy their houses, and feel thankful for the year ahead. Much like Ellie the elephant remembering stories from the past, families use this time to remember important lessons and stories passed down through generations. It is a joyful time filled with music, laughter, and bright colours.

Word bank: festival · tradition · celebration · diva · rangoli

1. What is the special name given to the oil lamps used during Diwali? (1 mark)

2. List two things that people use to make colourful rangoli patterns. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families light lamps inside and outside their homes? (2 marks)

4. How do you know that Diwali is a time for sharing with others? (2 marks)

5. If you were celebrating Diwali, which part of the festival would you enjoy the most and why? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern using bright colours and shapes, just like the ones Zara the zebra makes for Diwali.

Extension challenge: Research how people prepare their homes for Diwali and write two sentences explaining why tidying up is an important part of the celebration.