Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Nova the Owl

Learning objective: To understand the significance and key traditions of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, as part of religious education.

Read each flashcard carefully. Use these to test your knowledge about the traditions and meanings behind the festival of Diwali.

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

Diwali

What are 'diyas' used for during Diwali?

Diyas are small clay oil lamps that are lit to represent the victory of light over darkness.

What is a 'rangoli' and how is it made?

A rangoli is a colourful pattern made on the floor near an entrance, often using coloured powders, rice, or flower petals to welcome guests and good fortune.

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

The goddess Lakshmi.

What does the lighting of lamps symbolise during the festival?

It symbolises the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

Who are the key figures in the story often retold during Diwali about returning home?

Lord Rama and his wife Sita.

Why do families clean their homes thoroughly before Diwali?

Cleaning symbolises a fresh start and prepares the home to welcome goodness and prosperity.

What do families often share with friends and neighbours during this time?

They share delicious sweets and gifts to show kindness and community spirit.

How do fireworks and lights play a part in the celebration?

They are used to celebrate the joyous occasion and to brighten the night sky, reflecting the triumph of good.

Why is Diwali considered a time for 'new beginnings'?

It marks a time to reflect on the past, forgive mistakes, and set positive intentions for the year ahead.