Diwali: The Festival of Lights Fact-File

Learning objective: To identify and describe the key features of Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, and reflect on the significance of light over darkness.

Join Zara the zebra on a journey of discovery! Use this fact-file to record what you have learned about Diwali. Research the traditions, symbols, and stories associated with this celebration, and ensure you explain why light is such an important part of the festival.

Word bank: Diwali · Diyas · Rangoli · Celebration · Light · Darkness · Hinduism · Tradition · Prosperity · Family

1. What is Diwali and why do people celebrate it? Explain what the festival represents. (3 marks)

2. Describe the 'diyas'. Why are they significant during the festival of Diwali? (2 marks)

3. What are Rangoli patterns? Describe how they are made and where you might see them. (2 marks)

4. Compare and contrast how Diwali is celebrated at home compared to a standard birthday party. What is similar and what is different? (4 marks)

5. Justify why light is used as a symbol for 'good' overcoming 'evil' in the story of Diwali. (4 marks)

6. What might happen if people did not light diyas during Diwali? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Design your own Rangoli pattern using geometric shapes. Then, write a short poem or a descriptive paragraph explaining how your pattern represents peace and joy.