Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and how it is celebrated by Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities.

Use your knowledge of Diwali to answer the questions below. Think carefully about the traditions and the meaning behind this special celebration.

Diwali is a significant festival celebrated by millions of people around the world. It is often called the 'Festival of Lights' because people light small clay lamps, called diyas, to symbolise the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Families decorate their homes with colourful rangoli patterns made from coloured sand or flower petals. They share delicious sweets, wear new clothes, and spend time with their loved ones to mark this joyful occasion.

Word bank: Diwali · Lamps · Diyas · Rangoli · Victory · Light · Darkness · Celebration · Family · Patterns

1. Max the monkey wants to know why people light diyas during Diwali. Using the text, explain the deeper meaning behind this tradition. (2 marks)

2. Zara the zebra loves patterns! Describe how rangoli patterns are created and why they are an important part of the celebration. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast: How is celebrating Diwali different from a birthday party? List two ways they are similar and two ways they might be different. (4 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Why do you think Diwali is described as a festival of 'light over darkness'? (2 marks)

5. What might happen if a family chose not to light diyas during Diwali? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, symmetrical rangoli pattern using bright colours. Add a few glowing diyas around the edge of your design.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are hosting a Diwali celebration. Write a short poem or a descriptive paragraph explaining how you would make your home feel welcoming and bright for your guests. Use at least three words from the word bank.