Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali for Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains, and identify key traditions.

Join Ellie the elephant on a journey through the Festival of Lights! Use the clues below to sort the Diwali traditions into the correct categories. Think about how these actions demonstrate the themes of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

Word bank: Diya · Rangoli · Laksmi · New Clothes · Fireworks · Sweets · Family · Puja

1. Explain why people light small clay lamps called 'diyas' during Diwali. What does this represent? (2 marks)

2. Compare and contrast: How is preparing for Diwali similar to preparing for other special celebrations you know? Consider decorations and gifts. (2 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Why is cleaning the home an important part of the Diwali tradition before the festivities begin? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if a family chose not to share sweets during the festival? How would this change the meaning of the celebration? (2 marks)

5. Choose one tradition (Rangoli or Diya lighting). Describe the process of creating it and explain the skill required to do it well. (2 marks)

6. If you were planning a Diwali feast, what items from the word bank would you include to make the atmosphere welcoming and bright? Explain your choices. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a symmetrical Rangoli pattern using geometric shapes. Incorporate a central Diya lamp and label the different colours and shapes you have used.

Extension challenge: Research the story of Rama and Sita. Write a short poem from the perspective of Rama returning home, using at least five words from the word bank to describe the scene.