Diwali: The Festival of Lights Fact-File

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

Join our friend Ellie the elephant as she explores the history and traditions of Diwali! Use this fact-file to organise what you have learned about the festival. Think carefully about why light is so important to this celebration and how families prepare their homes for the special day.

Word bank: Diwali · Lamps · Rangoli · Celebration · Light · Tradition · Family · Festival · Kindness · New Beginnings

1. The Meaning of Diwali: Explain why Diwali is known as the 'Festival of Lights' and what it represents for those who celebrate it. (3 marks)

2. Home Traditions: Describe two ways that families prepare their homes to welcome the festival. Why do you think these preparations are important? (3 marks)

3. The Art of Rangoli: Zara the zebra loves patterns! Explain the purpose of Rangoli patterns and what materials are typically used to create them. (2 marks)

4. Compare and Contrast: Compare the theme of 'light overcoming darkness' in Diwali to other celebrations you know. How are the messages similar? (4 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Why might the sharing of sweets and gifts be a central part of the Diwali celebration? Think about the impact this has on the community. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if: Imagine a family could not light their lamps or decorate their home for Diwali. How might the atmosphere of the celebration change, and how could they show the spirit of the festival in another way? (4 marks)

Extension challenge: Design a Rangoli pattern using geometric shapes. Beneath your drawing, write a short poem or a paragraph explaining how your pattern represents the themes of joy and light.