

The Festival of Lights: Diwali

Learning objective: To develop reading comprehension skills by exploring the cultural and spiritual significance of Diwali.

Read the text carefully, then answer the questions below. Ensure your answers are written in full, coherent sentences.

Diwali, widely known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration observed by millions of people across the globe. For many, it marks the triumph of light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. During this vibrant festival, homes are meticulously cleaned and decorated to welcome prosperity and joy. One of the most iconic traditions involves the lighting of diyas—small, clay oil lamps—which are placed in rows along windowsills and doorways to illuminate the surroundings. Another popular custom is the creation of rangoli, intricate patterns made on the floor using coloured powders, rice, or flower petals. These designs serve as a warm welcome to guests and symbolise beauty and creativity. Families often gather to share delicious vegetarian feasts and exchange gifts, with the spirit of generosity at the heart of the occasion. As the night sky glows with the warmth of countless lamps, the festival serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of kindness, community, and the persistent power of hope in challenging times.

Word bank: Diwali · Diyas · Rangoli · Prosperity · Symbolism · Divinity · Tradition

1. Identify two specific decorations mentioned in the text that are used to prepare homes for Diwali. (2 marks)

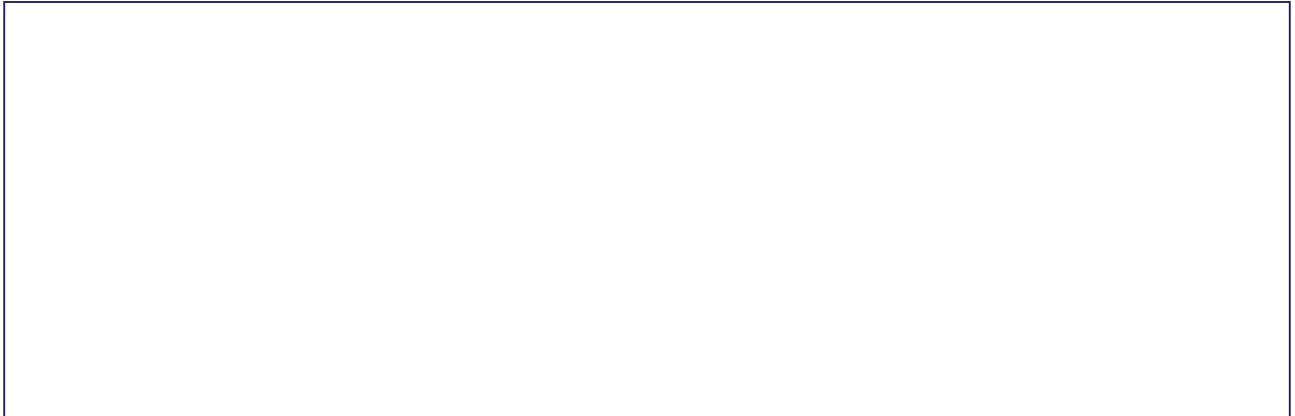
2. What is the primary symbolic meaning behind the lighting of diyas during the festival? (2 marks)

3. Explain why cleaning the home is considered an important part of the Diwali preparation process, according to the passage. (3 marks)

4. Infer how the act of sharing feasts and gifts impacts the community spirit during Diwali. (3 marks)

5. Justify why you think the theme of 'light over darkness' remains relevant in modern society. Provide at least two reasons for your answer. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a vibrant rangoli pattern inside a circle, incorporating symmetrical shapes and floral motifs. Beside your design, sketch a series of glowing diyas.



Extension challenge: Compare and contrast the traditions of Diwali with another festival that involves light. Write a paragraph explaining the similarities in symbolism and the differences in how they are celebrated. Furthermore, discuss what might happen if the tradition of creating rangoli were to be replaced by digital projections; would the symbolic meaning change? Justify your perspective.