Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the origins, traditions, and significance of Diwali within Hinduism, Sikhism, and Jainism.

Read each flashcard front to test your knowledge of Diwali. Flip the card to check your answer.

What is the primary meaning of the word 'Diwali'?

It comes from the Sanskrit word 'Deepavali', meaning 'row of lights'.

What do Hindus traditionally celebrate during Diwali regarding Lord Rama?

It commemorates the return of Lord Rama and his wife Sita to their kingdom of Ayodhya after defeating the demon king Ravana.

What are 'Diyas' and why are they used?

Diyas are small clay lamps filled with oil or ghee. They are lit to symbolise the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

Which deity is specifically worshipped during Diwali for wealth and prosperity?

Goddess Lakshmi, who is welcomed into homes with bright lights and clean surroundings.

What is a 'Rangoli' and how is it created?

A Rangoli is a colourful pattern created on the floor near the entrance of a home using materials like coloured powders, rice, or flower petals to welcome guests and positive energy.

Why is Diwali significant to the Sikh community?

It marks Bandi Chhor Divas, celebrating the release of the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Ji, from imprisonment.

What do Jains celebrate during the festival of Diwali?

It marks the anniversary of Lord Mahavira attaining Moksha, or liberation from the cycle of birth and death.

How long does the main celebration of Diwali usually last?

The festival typically lasts for five days, with the third day being the main day of festivities.

Why do people exchange gifts and share sweets (mithai) during Diwali?

It is a way to share joy, strengthen community bonds, and show gratitude to family and friends.

How does Nova the Owl describe the night sky during Diwali?

She says it is filled with shimmering lights and fireworks, reflecting the joy and brilliance of the celebrations below.

True or False: Diwali is only celebrated by people living in India.

False. It is a global festival celebrated by Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities all around the world.

What is the core spiritual message shared across the different faiths celebrating Diwali?

The triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil.