

Diwali: The Festival of Lights Fact-File

Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and symbolism of Diwali within the Hindu, Sikh, and Jain faiths.

Use your research skills to complete this fact-file. Think about how the light and decorations represent the themes of the festival. You may use books from your library or reliable educational websites to find your answers.

Word bank: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · New Year · Good over evil · Light · Celebration · Community · Tradition

1. The Meaning of Diwali: Explain what Diwali celebrates and why it is often described as the 'Festival of Lights'. (3 marks)

2. Diyas and Light: Describe what a diya is and explain why lighting them is such a significant part of the celebration. (2 marks)

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

4. The Importance of Lakshmi: Why is the goddess Lakshmi often associated with this festival, and what do families hope for during this time? (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: If you were celebrating Diwali, which part of the festival would you find most meaningful and why? (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Max the monkey is looking at the maths of Rangoli! Choose a geometric pattern and draw a symmetrical design on a piece of squared paper, ensuring it reflects the traditional style of Rangoli art.