

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance and traditions of Diwali within the context of religious celebrations.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Diwali, known as the Festival of Lights, is a beautiful celebration observed by millions of people across the globe. Our friend Ellie the elephant loves learning about how this festival brings families together to celebrate the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During this vibrant time, homes are cleaned and decorated to welcome prosperity and joy. One of the most iconic sights is the lighting of 'diyas', which are small clay lamps filled with oil. These lamps create a warm, flickering glow that lines windowsills and doorways.

Families also create stunning 'rangoli' patterns on the floor near their entrances. These are crafted using colourful powders, flower petals, or grains of rice, arranged in intricate geometric shapes. It is a time for sharing delicious traditional sweets, wearing new clothes, and exchanging gifts with loved ones. For many, it is also a time for quiet reflection and prayer. As fireworks light up the night sky, communities join in the spirit of togetherness, proving that kindness and light can brighten even the darkest nights. It is truly a wonderful time for everyone to appreciate the values of hope and friendship.

Word bank: Diwali · Diyas · Rangoli · Celebration · Tradition · Prosperity

1. What are 'diyas' and where are they placed during the festival? (2 marks)

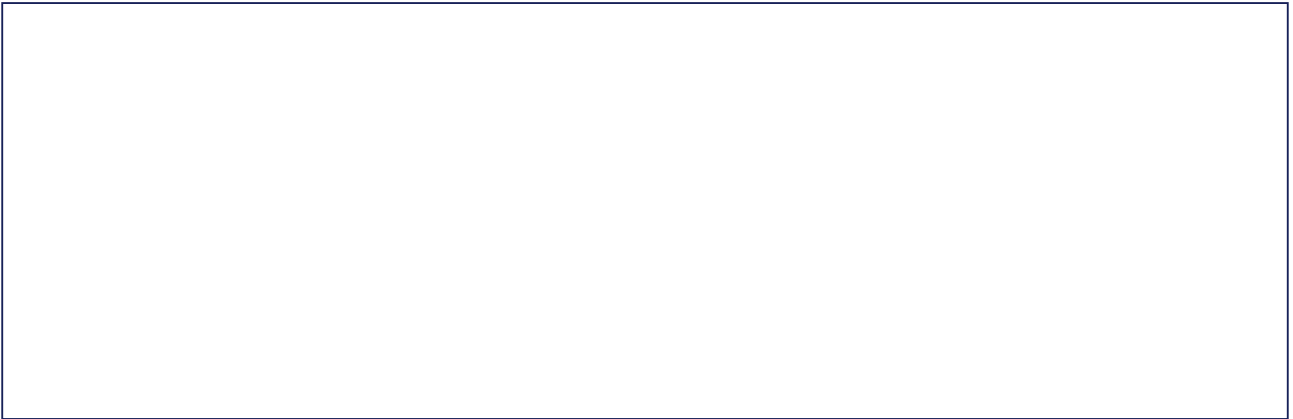
2. List two materials that might be used to create a rangoli pattern. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families choose to clean their homes before the festival begins? (2 marks)

4. What does the phrase 'the victory of light over darkness' suggest about the themes of Diwali? (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for communities to celebrate festivals like Diwali together? Justify your answer. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern inside a circle, using symmetrical shapes and bright colours, just like the ones Ellie saw during the festival.



Extension challenge: Research one other festival that involves light and write a short paragraph explaining how it is similar to or different from Diwali.