

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and origins of Diwali for Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge about the Festival of Lights. Read the front, think of the answer, then check the back to see if you were correct!

What is the main meaning behind the festival of Diwali?

It is the Festival of Lights, symbolising the victory of light over darkness and good over evil.

What are 'diyas' and why are they used during Diwali?

Diyas are small clay oil lamps. They are lit to represent the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.

What are 'rangoli' patterns?

Rangoli are colourful patterns made on the floor near the entrance of homes using coloured sand, rice, or flower petals to welcome guests and prosperity.

Which deity is often worshipped during Diwali to bring wealth and prosperity?

The goddess Lakshmi.

For the Hindu story of Diwali, whose return to Ayodhya is celebrated?

The return of Prince Rama and his wife Sita after fourteen years of exile.

How do families usually prepare their homes for Diwali?

They clean their homes thoroughly, decorate them with lights and rangoli, and prepare special sweets to share with family and friends.

Why do Sikhs celebrate a special day during the same time as Diwali?

They celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas, which commemorates the release of Guru Hargobind Ji from imprisonment.

What do Jains celebrate during the festival of Diwali?

Jains celebrate the anniversary of Lord Mahavira attaining Moksha, or eternal bliss.

How long does the festival of Diwali typically last?

It is usually a five-day festival.

What is one way that people show kindness during Diwali?

By exchanging gifts, sharing sweets with neighbours, and donating to those in need.

Why is it important to wear new clothes during Diwali?

Wearing new clothes represents a fresh start and marks the importance of the special occasion.

What is the primary message of Diwali that applies to everyone?

That kindness, light, and knowledge can overcome ignorance and negativity.