

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Celebrate the light within! Join Nova the owl as we discover the joy of Diwali.

- Diwali is known as the 'Festival of Lights' because it celebrates the spiritual victory of light over darkness and good over evil.
- Many people light small oil lamps, called diyas, and place them around their homes to symbolise the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.
- For many Hindus, the festival honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, who is invited into homes to bring blessings for the year ahead.
- Sikhs celebrate Diwali as Bandi Chhor Divas, marking the day the sixth Guru, Guru Hargobind Ji, was released from prison along with many Indian princes.
- Jains celebrate Diwali to mark the anniversary of Lord Mahavira attaining moksha, which is a state of eternal bliss and liberation.
- Families often exchange gifts, share delicious sweets, and enjoy firework displays to mark this joyous occasion with friends and neighbours.

Did you know? Did you know? During Diwali, families often decorate their doorsteps with intricate patterns called Rangoli, which are created using coloured sand, rice flour, or flower petals to welcome guests and bring good luck into the home.

Key vocabulary: Diyas · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Dharma · Celebration · Prosperity