

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To identify key traditions, stories, and the spiritual significance of Diwali.

Use your knowledge of the festival of Diwali to answer the questions below. Think about the stories, the decorations, and the ways families celebrate together.

Word bank: Diya lamps · Lakshmi · Rangoli · Mithai · Rama · Sita · Prosperity · Ayodhya

1. Diwali is a major festival celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. What is the central spiritual theme that all these religions celebrate during this time? (2 marks)

2. In the Hindu tradition, Diwali celebrates the return of Rama and Sita to their kingdom after fourteen years in exile. What was the name of this kingdom? (1 mark)

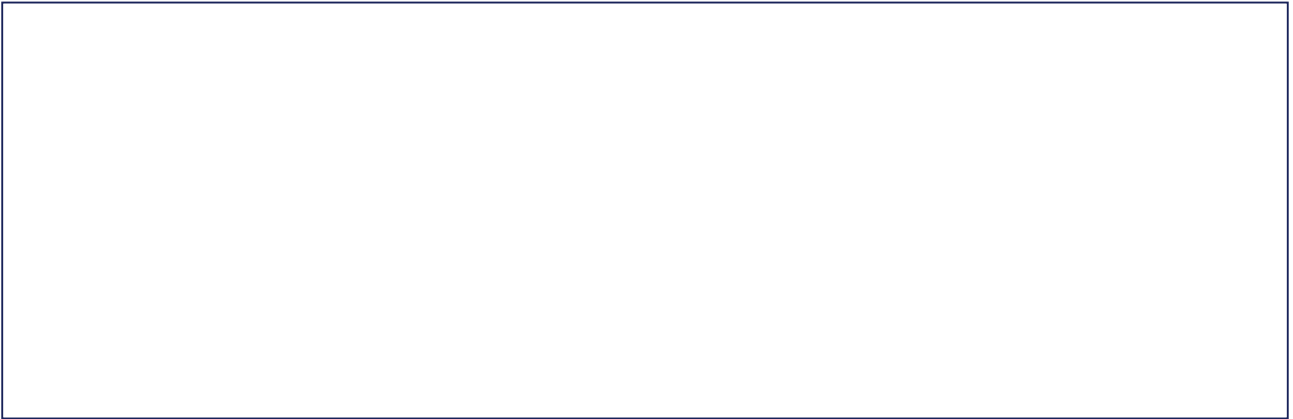
3. Zara is using coloured powders and flower petals to create a beautiful Rangoli pattern. Explain why these patterns are traditionally created at the entrance of a home. (2 marks)

4. Max is going to the local shop to buy some mithai for his neighbours. He has £10.00 to spend on these treats. What is 'mithai' and why is sharing food such an important part of Diwali? (2 marks)

5. Why do people light small clay lamps, known as 'divas', and place them in rows around their homes and windows? (2 marks)

6. Many Hindus offer prayers (puja) to the Goddess Lakshmi during Diwali. What do they believe she brings to their family for the coming year? (1 mark)

Draw: Zara needs help with her decorations! Draw a detailed, symmetrical Rangoli pattern and a traditional Diva lamp. Use bright colours to make your design look festive.



Extension challenge: For Sikhs, Diwali coincides with a special day called Bandi Chhor Divas. Research this event and write three facts about Guru Hargobind Ji and why this day is celebrated as a day of freedom.