

A Celebration of Light: Writing about Diwali

Learning objective: To write a descriptive and informative account of Diwali, using appropriate vocabulary and structured paragraphs to explain its significance.

Use the prompts below to build your explanation of Diwali. Think about why it is known as the 'Festival of Lights' and describe the traditions involved. Remember to include your own observations or reflections as you write.

As the moon wanes and the night sky deepens, the world begins to glow with the warm, flickering light of thousands of tiny lamps.

Word bank: significance · tradition · symbolise · festivities · illuminated · furthermore · consequently · in addition to · vibrant · community

1. Introduction: What is Diwali and why is it celebrated? Start by saying: 'Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration that marks...' (2 marks)

2. The Legend: Briefly explain the story behind the festival. Start by saying: 'The festival is deeply rooted in tradition, with many people remembering the story of...' (2 marks)

3. Traditions and Customs: Describe how families prepare for the festival. Start by saying: 'During the celebration, households become busy with preparations such as...' (3 marks)

4. The Meaning of Light: Explain why lamps (diyas) are so important. Start by saying: 'The lighting of the diyas is essential because it represents...' (3 marks)

5. Conclusion: Summarise what Diwali means to those who celebrate it. Start by saying: 'Ultimately, Diwali is a time for reflection, gratitude, and...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are explaining Diwali to Max the monkey. Write a short paragraph describing one specific food or sweet treat often shared during the festival and explain why it makes the celebration special.