Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Learning objective: To understand the key traditions, meanings, and stories behind the festival of Diwali.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge about Diwali. You can read the question on the front and check the answer on the back.

What does the word 'Diwali' mean?	What are 'diyas'?
It comes from the word 'Deepavali', which means 'a row of lights'.	Small clay lamps filled with oil or ghee, used to light up homes during Diwali.

What is a Rangoli?	Which goddess is specially worshipped during Diwali to bring prosperity?
A beautiful, colorful pattern made on the floor near an entrance to welcome guests and good luck.	The goddess Lakshmi.

In the story of Rama and Sita, why did the people light rows of lamps?	What does the light of the diya represent?
To help guide Rama and Sita home after their long exile.	The triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

How long does the festival of Diwali usually last?	Besides lighting diyas, what do families often share during Diwali?
It is a five-day festival.	Sweets, gifts, and special meals with friends and family.

What do many people do to their homes to prepare for Diwali?	Why do people wear new clothes during the festival?
They clean and decorate them to welcome the New Year and the goddess Lakshmi.	To symbolise a fresh start and celebrate the happy occasion.