A Bright Celebration: Diwali

Learning objective: To understand the meaning and traditions of Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank to help you understand the new words. Answer the questions in full sentences. Use the sentence starters provided.

Diwali is a special time known as the Festival of Lights. It is celebrated by millions of people across the world. During Diwali, families clean their homes to get ready for a fresh start. They decorate their floors with beautiful, colorful patterns called rangoli. These are made using colored sand or flower petals. One of the most important parts of the festival is the lighting of diyas. These are small clay oil lamps. People place them in rows around their homes to welcome light and goodness. Diwali is a time for kindness and joy. Friends and family visit each other to share delicious sweets and gifts. It is a time to remember that light overcomes darkness. Many people also wear new clothes and enjoy fireworks displays in the night sky. Just like our friend Pip the caterpillar loves to collect new words, many people collect happy memories during this wonderful festival. It is a time to feel grateful for the people we love and to hope for a bright future for everyone.

Word bank: Diwali: The Festival of Lights · Diyas: Small clay oil lamps · Rangoli: Colorful patterns made on the floor · Tradition: A custom passed down through families · Celebration: A happy event

1. What are diyas used for during Diwali? (Literal) (2 marks)

2. What do people use to make rangoli patterns? (Literal) (2 marks)

3. Why do you think families clean their homes before Diwali starts? (Inferential) Sentence starter: I think families clean their homes because... (2 marks)

4. How do you think people feel when they visit their friends and family? (Inferential) Sentence starter: I think people feel... because... (2 marks)

5. Which part of the Diwali celebration sounds the most exciting to you and why? (Evaluative) Sentence starter: The most exciting part is... because... (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a bright diya lamp sitting on a colorful rangoli pattern.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are hosting a Diwali party. If you had £10 to spend, what two items would you buy to decorate your home and why?