Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Pip and Friends

Learning objective: To understand the significance, traditions, and origins of Diwali within Hindu, Sikh, and Jain traditions.

Read the information provided by Pip the bookworm and answer the following 10 questions to test your knowledge about the Festival of Lights.

Diwali is a major festival celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains across the world. It is known as the Festival of Lights. The word 'Diwali' comes from the Sanskrit word 'Deepavali', meaning 'row of lights'. Families decorate their homes with colorful Rangoli patterns made from colored sand or flower petals. Small oil lamps called diyas are lit to symbolise the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. In many traditions, people pray to Goddess Lakshmi for prosperity. For many, it also marks the start of a New Year and a time to exchange gifts and sweets with friends and family. Answer Key: 1. A, 2. True, 3. False, 4. B, 5. Rangoli, 6. True, 7. C, 8. True, 9. Diya, 10. D.

Word bank: Diya · Rangoli · Lakshmi · Rama · Sita · Light · Darkness · Knowledge · Ignorance · New Year

1. 1. What does the word 'Deepavali' mean? A) Festival of Flowers B) Row of lights* C) Night of dancing D) Morning prayer (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Diwali is celebrated only by one religion. (1 mark)

3. 3. True or False: Diwali celebrates the victory of darkness over light. (1 mark)

4. 4. What are the colorful patterns made on the floor called? A) Origami B) Rangoli* C) Mosaic D) Tapestry (1 mark)

5. 5. What is the name of the small oil lamp lit during the festival? (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Many people buy new clothes and exchange sweets during Diwali. (1 mark)

7. 7. Which goddess is often worshipped during Diwali for prosperity? A) Saraswati B) Durga C) Lakshmi* D) Parvati (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: Diwali is considered the beginning of a New Year for many communities. (1 mark)

9. 9. Complete the sentence: Diwali symbolises the victory of good over _____. (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these materials is traditionally used to make Rangoli? A) Plastic beads B) Colored sand* C) Metal shavings D) Paper clips (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful, symmetrical Rangoli pattern that you might find on a doorstep during Diwali, including bright colors and geometric shapes.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a Diwali celebration for your school. Create a shopping list for decorations and traditional sweets, ensuring you stay under a budget of £50.00.