

The Festival of Lights: The Story of Diwali

Learning objective: To understand the narrative structure of the Diwali story and explore the themes of light, kindness, and victory.

Read the passage about the legend of Diwali. Use the information to answer the questions below. Think carefully about how the characters feel at each stage of the story.

Long ago, in the ancient kingdom of Ayodhya, there lived a noble prince named Rama. After many years of exile, Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshmana finally returned home. The people of the kingdom were overjoyed to hear of their return. To show their love and to help the travellers find their way in the dark of the new moon, every family lit rows of small clay oil lamps, called diyas. The warm, golden glow shone from every window and doorway, turning the night into a festival of light. This act of kindness is why we celebrate Diwali today: it marks the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. Across the world, families share delicious sweets, wear vibrant new clothes, and create beautiful patterns called rangoli to welcome happiness into their homes.

Word bank: Diwali · festival · triumph · legend · celebration · tradition · courage · symbolise

1. Why did the people of Ayodhya light clay lamps when Prince Rama returned home? (2 marks)

2. Based on the passage, what does the lighting of the lamps symbolise? (2 marks)

3. List two ways that families celebrate Diwali according to the text. (2 marks)

4. How do you think the people of Ayodhya felt when they saw Rama returning? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

5. The word 'vibrant' is used to describe the clothes. Can you suggest a synonym for vibrant that fits the context? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a traditional diya lamp and decorate the area around it with a colourful rangoli pattern. Think about the symmetry of your design, just like Zara the zebra would!



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a citizen of Ayodhya. Write a short diary entry (4-6 sentences) describing the moment you saw the first light appear in the distance and how you felt helping to light the lamps.