

The Festival of Lights: Diwali with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the cultural significance of Diwali and identify key themes in the story of Rama and Sita.

Read the story below carefully. Think about how the characters show bravery and kindness. Answer the questions in full sentences, using evidence from the text where possible.

Ellie the elephant loves to visit her friends to learn about traditions from all over the world. This week, she is learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights. Diwali celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. The story often told during this time is that of Prince Rama and his wife, Sita. After being sent away from their home for fourteen years, the couple finally returned. To guide them home in the dark, the people of their kingdom lit thousands of small clay lamps called diyas. Today, families clean their homes, decorate their floors with colourful rangoli patterns, and share delicious sweets with their neighbours. It is a time for joy, reflection, and being kind to one another.

Word bank: diya · celebration · triumph · tradition · courage · generosity · festivity

1. According to the passage, what does the festival of Diwali celebrate? (2 marks)

2. Why did the people of the kingdom light thousands of clay lamps? (2 marks)

3. List two ways that families prepare for or celebrate Diwali today. (2 marks)

4. Why do you think the people wanted to help Rama and Sita find their way home? (2 marks)

5. Find and copy an adjective from the text that describes the lamps. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern inside a circle. Use bright colours and symmetrical shapes to make it look like the decorations Ellie saw on her travels.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are hosting a Diwali party. Write a short invitation to a friend explaining why you are celebrating and one tradition you would like to share with them.