

The Festival of Lights: A Diwali Story

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

Read the passage about the story of Diwali carefully. Then, answer the questions that follow to show your understanding of the traditions and the story's meaning.

Diwali is widely known as the Festival of Lights. For many, it is a time to celebrate 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. According to the legend, Rama was sent away from his home for fourteen years. During this time, he faced many challenges, but he always remained kind and brave. When his time of exile finally ended, he returned home to his kingdom. To help him find his way back in the dark of the new moon, the people of the kingdom placed rows of glowing clay lamps, called divas, outside their homes. Today, families celebrate by lighting divas, decorating their floors with colourful patterns called rangoli, and sharing sweets with friends and neighbours.

Word bank: Diwali · tradition · celebration · victory · divas · legend · righteousness

1. Based on the text, what does the 'Festival of Lights' symbolise regarding the battle between good and evil? (2 marks)

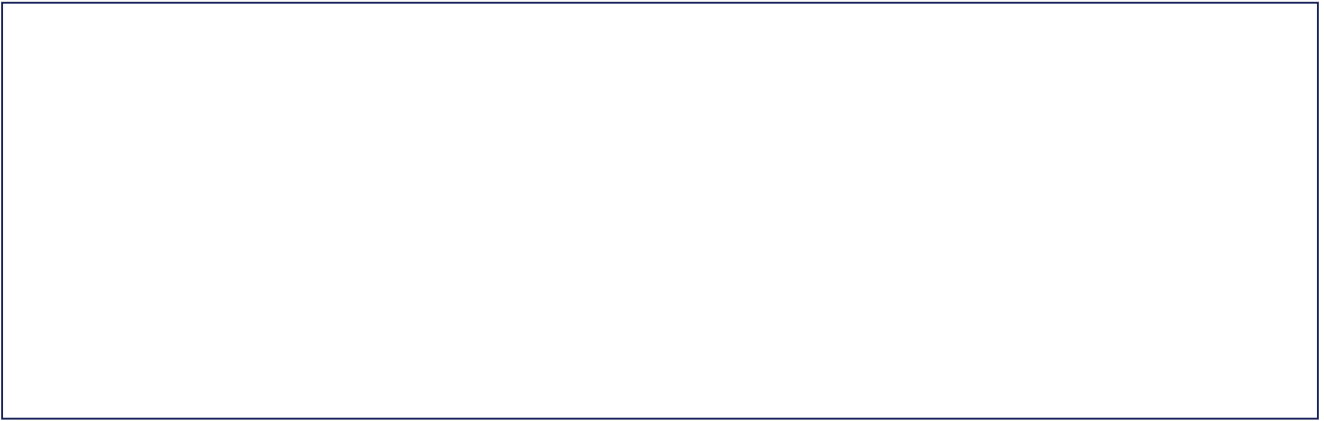
2. Why did the people of the kingdom light lamps for Prince Rama when he returned home? (2 marks)

3. Identify two ways that families celebrate Diwali today, as mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

4. How did Prince Rama behave during his fourteen years away from home? (1 mark)

5. Why do you think the people chose to use clay lamps instead of another type of light source? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern inside a square frame. Use bright colours and symmetrical shapes to make it look like the decorations used during Diwali.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a reporter visiting the kingdom on the night Rama returns. Write a short diary entry (3-4 sentences) describing how the city looks with all the lamps lit and how the people are feeling.