

Diwali

What is Diwali?

Diwali is a Hindu 'festival of lights' holiday in India. It celebrates the victory of good over evil and light over darkness.

How do people celebrate Diwali?

Windows and doors are left open and lamps are lit to help Lakshmi in. Some people pray to Lakshmi and rangoli patterns are drawn on floors.



Diwali is a time for:

- spring cleaning;
- decorating homes with lights;
- wearing new clothes;
- exchanging gifts;
- preparing festival meals;
- fireworks displays;
- decorating women's hands with henna designs.

How do the festival legends differ across India?

They celebrate the story of Rama and Sita in northern India and the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king, Narakaasura, in Nepal. In Gujarat, they honour Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and in Bengal, it is associated with the goddess Kali.

What is the story of Rama and Sita?

Rama and Sita were told to leave and the demon king, Ravana, kidnapped Sita. Rama followed a trail of jewellery Sita left. Hanuman, the monkey king, and monkeys and other animals built a bridge and fought a battle. Rama killed Ravana and people lit lamps to welcome them home.



Diwali Questions

1. What is the 'festival of lights' holiday called?

2. What does the festival celebrate the victory of?

3. What are left open to help Lakshmi find her way in?

4. Name three things people do during Diwali.

5. What do they celebrate in northern India?

6. How would you like to celebrate Diwali?

Diwali Answers

1. What is the 'festival of lights' holiday called?

The 'festival of lights' holiday is called Diwali.

2. What does the festival celebrate the victory of?

The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil and light over darkness.

3. What are left open to help Lakshmi find her way in?

To let Lakshmi in, windows and doors are left open.

4. Name three things people do during Diwali.

People spring clean, decorate with lights, wear new clothes, exchange gifts, prepare festival meals, put on fireworks displays and draw on henna designs. (Accept any three)

5. What do they celebrate in northern India?

In northern India, they celebrate the story of Rama and Sita.

6. How would you like to celebrate Diwali?

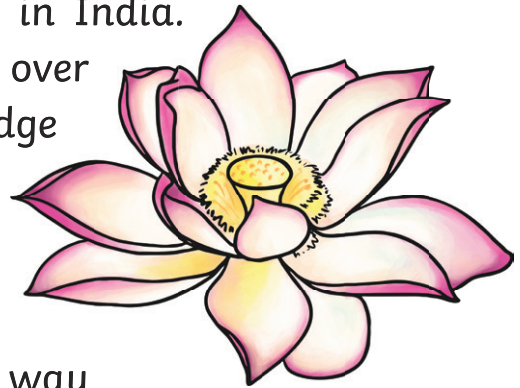
Answers will vary.

Diwali

What is Diwali?

Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'. It is a Hindu 'festival of lights' and a very important holiday in India.

It celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.



How do people celebrate Diwali?

Windows and doors are left open and lamps are lit to help Lakshmi find her way into houses. Some people also pray to Lakshmi for the year ahead. Rangoli patterns are drawn on floors and the most popular design is the lotus flower.



Diwali is a time for:

- spring cleaning;
- decorating homes with lights;
- wearing new clothes;
- exchanging gifts;
- preparing festival meals;
- fireworks displays;
- decorating women's hands with henna designs.

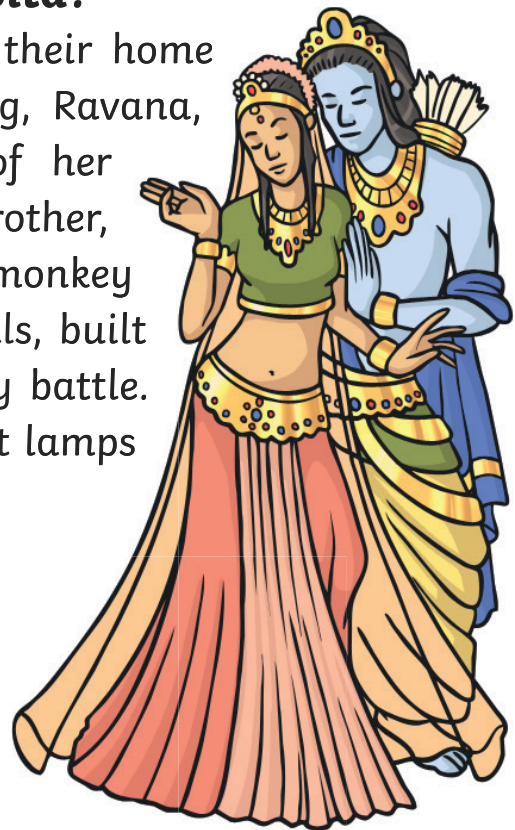
How do the festival legends differ across India?

In northern India, Diwali celebrates the story of Rama and Sita. In Nepal, they celebrate the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king, Narakaasura. In Gujarat, they honour Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. In Bengal, it is associated with the goddess Kali.



What is the story of Rama and Sita?

Rama and Sita were banished from their home by the king. The terrible demon king, Ravana, kidnapped Sita. Sita left a trail of her jewellery which Rama and his brother, Lakshmana, followed. Hanuman, the monkey king, with monkeys and other animals, built a bridge to Sita and fought a mighty battle. Rama killed Ravana and everybody lit lamps to welcome them home.



Diwali Questions

1. What is Diwali a festival of?

2. Where in particular is it a very important holiday?

3. How do people help Lakshmi find her way in?

4. Name four things people do during Diwali.

5. What do they honour in Gujarat?

6. Where do they celebrate the story of Rama and Sita?

7. Who kidnapped Sita?

8. Which part of the story do you like the most and why?

Diwali Answers

1. What is Diwali a festival of?

Diwali is a 'festival of lights'.

2. Where in particular is it a very important holiday?

Is it a very important holiday in India.

3. How do people help Lakshmi find her way in?

People help Lakshmi find her way inside by lighting lamps and opening windows and doors.

4. Name four things people do during Diwali.

During Diwali people spring clean, decorate homes with lights, wear new clothes, exchange gifts, prepare festival meals, put on fireworks displays and decorate women's hands with henna designs. (Accept any four)

5. What do they honour in Gujarat?

In Gujarat, they honour Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

6. Where do they celebrate the story of Rama and Sita?

They celebrate the story of Rama and Sita in northern India.

7. Who kidnapped Sita?

Ravana, the terrible demon king, kidnapped Sita.

8. Which part of the story do you like the most and why?

Answers will vary.

Diwali

What is Diwali?

Diwali is a very important holiday in India. It is a Hindu 'festival of lights' which celebrates the New Year. The word Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

How do people celebrate Diwali?

Lamps are lit and windows and doors are left open to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes. Some people also pray to Lakshmi for a successful year ahead. Rangoli patterns are drawn on floors and the most popular design is the lotus flower.



Diwali is a time for:

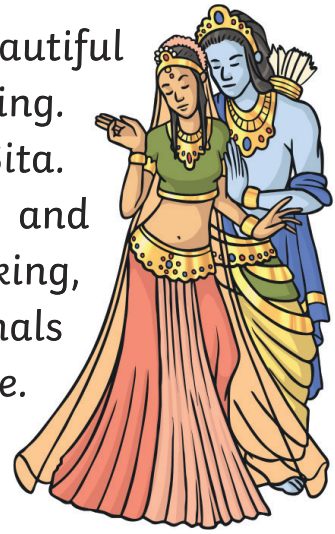
- spring cleaning;
- decorating homes with lights;
- wearing new clothes;
- exchanging gifts;
- preparing festival meals;
- fireworks displays;
- decorating women's hands with henna designs.

How do the festival legends differ across India?

The legends that go with the festival differ depending on where you are. In northern India, Diwali celebrates the return of Rama and Sita to Rama's kingdom after fourteen years of exile. In Nepal, Diwali commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king, Narakaasura. In Bengal, it is associated with the goddess Kali. In Gujarat, the festival honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

What is the story of Rama and Sita?

Prince Rama, a great warrior and Sita, his beautiful wife, were banished from their home by the king. The terrible demon king, Ravana, kidnapped Sita. Sita left a trail of her jewellery which Rama and his brother, Lakshmana, followed. The monkey king, Hanuman, an army of monkeys and other animals built a bridge to Sita and fought a mighty battle. Rama killed Ravana and everybody lit lamps to celebrate and welcome them home.



Diwali Questions

1. What does the word Diwali mean?

2. What does the festival celebrate?

3. Who is Lakshmi?

4. Why do people pray to Lakshmi, light lamps and leave windows and doors open?

5. Name five other things people do during Diwali.

6. Which legend do people celebrate in Nepal?

7. What do they celebrate during the festival in Bengal and Gujarat?

8. Who are Rama, Sita and Ravana?

9. How did Rama know which way Sita was taken?

10. Which part of the Hindu festival would you like to take part in and why?

Diwali Answers

1. What does the word Diwali mean?

The word Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'.

2. What does the festival celebrate?

The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

3. Who is Lakshmi?

Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth.

4. Why do people pray to Lakshmi, light lamps and leave windows and doors open?

People light lamps and leave windows and doors open to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes. People pray to Lakshmi for a successful year ahead.

5. Name five other things people do during Diwali.

People spring clean their homes, decorate homes with lots of lights, wear new clothes, exchange gifts, prepare festival meals, put on huge fireworks displays and decorate women's hands with henna designs. (Accept any five)

6. Which legend do people celebrate in Nepal?

In Nepal, Diwali commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king, Narakaasura.

7. What do they celebrate during the festival in Bengal and Gujarat?

In Bengal, the festival is associated with the goddess Kali and in Gujarat, the festival honours Lakshmi.

8. Who are Rama, Sita and Ravana?

Rama was a prince and a great warrior, Sita was his beautiful wife and Ravana was the terrible demon king.

9. How did Rama know which way Sita was taken?

Rama knew which way Sita was taken because she left a trail of her jewellery for him to follow.

10. Which part of the Hindu festival would you like to take part in and why?

Answers will vary.