

Navratri

Navratri is a Hindu festival. It usually lasts for nine days and celebrates good over evil.

What Happens During Navratri?

Puja and fasting can take place. This means Hindus pray and are only allowed to eat certain things.

During Navratri, there can be lots of dancing, chanting and music. The dancers wear bright costumes.

Other Traditions during Navratri

- Some Hindus don't wear black. They wear different colours each day of the festival.
- Families get together to celebrate.
- Oil lamps burn for the full festival.



Did you know?

This festival is also called Durga Puja.

Questions

1. Navratri is a _____ festival:

- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Buddhist

2. For how many days does Navratri usually last?

- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8
- ☐ 9

3. What does it celebrate?

- ☐ animals
- ☐ good over evil
- ☐ food
- ☐ the world

4. During Navratri, some Hindus don't wear:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> blue | <input type="checkbox"/> red |
| <input type="checkbox"/> black | <input type="checkbox"/> yellow |

5. During this festival, what is lit?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> paper | <input type="checkbox"/> oil lamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a match | <input type="checkbox"/> a candle |

Answers

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- ☒ **Hindu**
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Buddhist

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Navratri

Navratri is a Hindu festival held at the end of September or at the start of October. It usually lasts for nine days and celebrates good over evil.

What Happens during Navratri?

During the festival, there are rituals of puja and fasting. This means Hindus pray and are only allowed to eat certain things. People gather together to worship (puja) on small shrines which are special areas devoted to Hindu gods. They worship the goddesses Lakshmi, Durga and Saraswati.

During Navratri, there can be lots of dancing, chanting and music. The dancers wear bright costumes.

Other Traditions during Navratri

- Some Hindus do charity work.
- Oil lamps burn for the whole festival.
- Some Hindus do not wear black but wear different colours each day of the celebrations instead.



Did you know?

This festival is also called Durga Puja.

Questions

1. Navratri usually takes place in either:

- ☐ March or April
- ☐ May or June
- ☐ January or February
- ☐ September or October

2. During the festival, there are rituals of puja and fasting. This means:

- ☐ Hindus go on holiday.
- ☐ Hindus pray and are only allowed to eat certain things.
- ☐ Hindus get married.
- ☐ Hindus eat feasts.

3. Who is worshipped? Tick three.

- ☐ Lakshmi
- ☐ Durga
- ☐ Hanuman
- ☐ Saraswati

4. Match up correctly:

During Navratri, there can be

The dancers wear

Some Hindus do

Some Hindus wear

charity work.

different colours each day.

lots of dancing and music.

bright costumes.

5. Fill in the missing words:

The festival is also called _____

Answers

1. Navratri usually takes place in either:

- ☐ March or April
- ☐ May or June
- ☐ January or February
- ☒ **September or October**

2. During the festival, there are rituals of puja and fasting. This means:

- ☐ Hindus go on holiday.
- ☒ **Hindus pray and are only allowed to eat certain things.**
- ☐ Hindus get married.
- ☐ Hindus eat feasts.

3. Who is worshipped? Tick three.

- ☒ **Lakshmi**
- ☒ **Durga**
- ☐ Hanuman
- ☒ **Saraswati**

4. Match up correctly:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| During Navratri, there can be | charity work. |
| The dancers wear | different colours each day. |
| Some Hindus do | lots of dancing and music. |
| Some Hindus wear | bright costumes. |

5. Fill in the missing words:

The festival is also called **Durga Puja**.

Navratri

Navratri (meaning 'nine nights') is a Hindu festival celebrated every autumn. It is usually held at the end of September or the beginning of October and lasts for nine days. Navratri celebrates good defeating evil.

Did you know?

This festival is also called Durga Puja.

During the festival, there are rituals of puja and fasting. This means Hindus pray and are only allowed to eat and drink certain things. Fasting rules include:

- no alcohol (beer/wine)
- only eat a vegetarian diet (no meat)

People gather together to worship (puja) on small shrines which are special areas devoted to Hindu gods. They worship the goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

During the celebrations, there can be lots of dancing, chanting and music, including folk songs. The dancers wear bright costumes. Garba and Dandiya Raas ('dandiya' means sticks), are both dances associated with the festival of Navratri. The sticks represent the swords used by the goddess Durga in her nine-day battle against the demon king, Mahishasura.



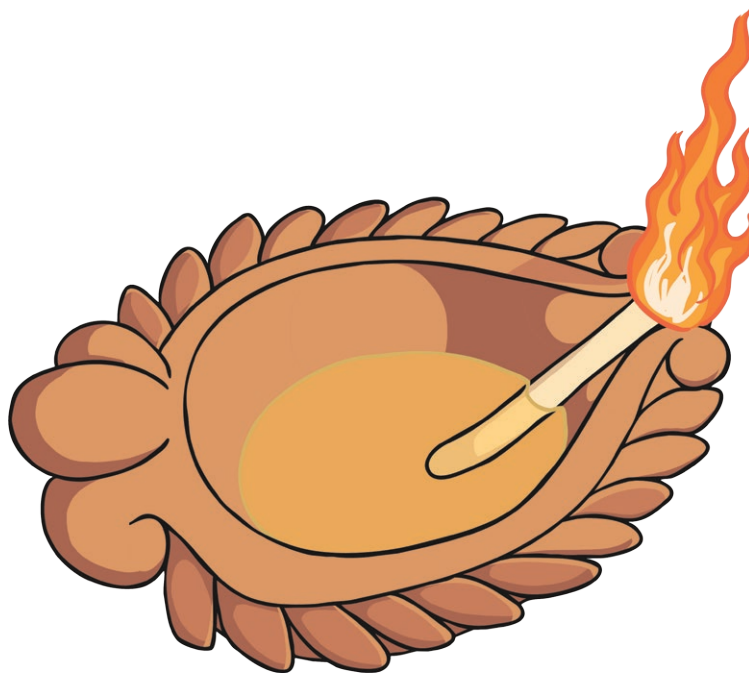
Did you know?

Navratri depends on the lunar calendar therefore some years it is celebrated for eight days instead of nine.

Other Traditions during Navratri

- Some Hindus do charity work.
- Oil lamps burn for the whole festival.
- Some Hindus do not wear black but wear different colours each day of the celebrations instead.

Soon after Navratri, Diwali begins. Diwali is the Hindu festival of light.

**Did you know?**

Navratri can be celebrated differently depending on where you are in the world.

Questions

1. Navratri is celebrated in which season?

- ☐ spring
- ☐ summer
- ☐ autumn
- ☐ winter

2. List two fasting rules during the festival.

3. List the three goddesses who are worshipped:

4. Match up correctly:

Shrines are

Dandiya

Goddess Durga had a

It is celebrated

differently depending on where you are in the world.

battle with Mahishasura.

means 'sticks'.

special areas devoted to Hindu gods.

5. _____ burn for the entire festival.

6. True or False - The festival always lasts for nine days. Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Navratri is celebrated in which season?

- ☐ spring
- ☐ summer
- ☒ **autumn**
- ☐ winter

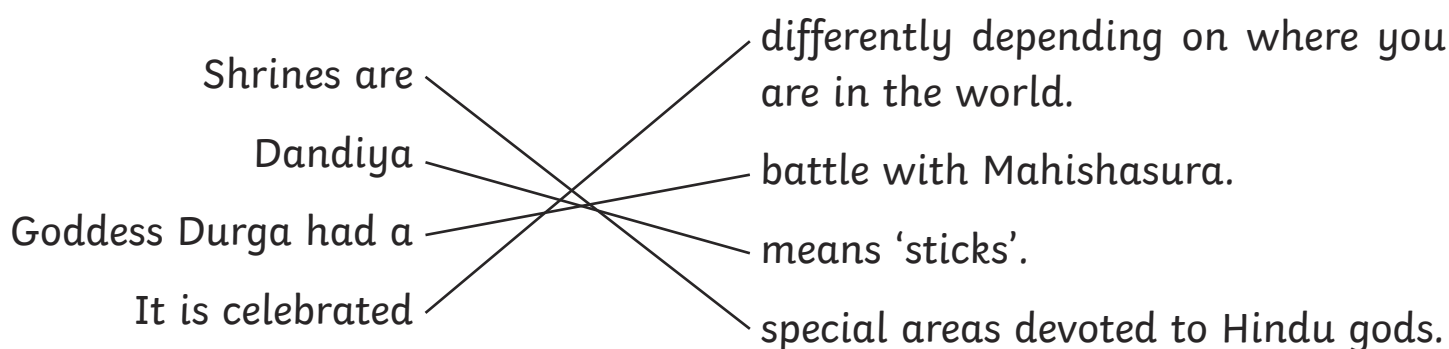
2. List two fasting rules during the festival.

Two fasting rules may include; no alcohol and only eat a vegetarian diet.

3. List the three goddesses who are worshipped:

Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati

4. Match up correctly:



5. **Oil lamps** burn for the entire festival.

6. True or False - The festival always lasts for nine days. Explain your answer.

The festival can sometimes last for eight days. This is because the dates when Navratri is celebrated depend on the lunar calendar.