

Diwali: A Festival of Lights

B1 | Adults / Teens | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 50-60 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. Which celebrations use light, colour or special food? What do these things represent?

1. Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|---|
| 1. diya | _____ | A. strong love, loyalty or religious commitment |
| 2. prosperity | _____ | B. a small oil lamp used in South Asian celebrations |
| 3. rangoli | _____ | C. including many different types of people or things |
| 4. devotion | _____ | D. success and having enough money |
| 5. renewal | _____ | E. the process of becoming new again |
| 6. diverse | _____ | F. a colourful floor design made with powder, flowers or rice |

2. Read the article. The bold words are the vocabulary from Activity 1.

1. Diwali is an important festival celebrated by millions of people, especially Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists. It is often called the Festival of Lights. The stories and practices are **diverse**, but light commonly represents hope and the victory of good over evil.
2. Families clean and decorate their homes before Diwali. Small oil lamps called **diyas**, candles and electric lights make homes bright. Many people also create a **rangoli** near an entrance using coloured powder, flowers or rice.
3. The festival is a time for visits, food and gifts. Families may share sweets with friends and neighbours. For many people, these actions express welcome, joy and hopes for **prosperity** in the year ahead.
4. Diwali can also be a time of prayer and **devotion**. Different communities remember different religious stories. Across these traditions, the festival often encourages people to think about **renewal**, generosity and the importance of family.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

3. Comprehension. Answer in complete sentences. Use the article to help you.

1. Why is Diwali called the Festival of Lights?

2. What is a diya?

3. What is a rangoli?

4. What do families often do at Diwali?

5. What ideas can the festival encourage?

4. Discuss. Talk in small groups. Give reasons and examples.

- Why is light a powerful symbol?
- How do people show welcome to visitors in your culture?
- Should public festivals explain their religious background?
- What makes a celebration feel special without being expensive?

5. Homework: Write a descriptive paragraph.

Write 120-150 words about a celebration that uses a symbol such as light, colour, food or music.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. diya - B
2. prosperity - D
3. rangoli - F
4. devotion - A
5. renewal - E
6. diverse - C

Comprehension answers

1. Why is Diwali called the Festival of Lights?

Homes are decorated with lamps, candles and electric lights.

2. What is a diya?

It is a small oil lamp used in South Asian celebrations.

3. What is a rangoli?

It is a colourful floor design made with powder, flowers or rice.

4. What do families often do at Diwali?

They clean and decorate homes, visit others, share food and exchange gifts.

5. What ideas can the festival encourage?

It can encourage renewal, generosity and the importance of family.

Teaching note

Compare matching answers before reading. Accept other article-supported comprehension answers; discussion and homework answers vary. Discuss customs respectfully, distinguishing religious, cultural and personal traditions.