

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

A2 | Teens / Adults | Reading + Vocabulary + Discussion | 30-40 minutes

BEFORE YOU READ

Talk with a partner. What celebrations use lights where you live?

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

- | | | |
|-------------|-------|--|
| 1. light | _____ | A. parents, children and other relatives |
| 2. lamp | _____ | B. something that helps you see |
| 3. candle | _____ | C. a special time of celebration |
| 4. family | _____ | D. a small object that gives light |
| 5. sweets | _____ | E. small sweet foods |
| 6. festival | _____ | F. a stick of wax with a small flame |

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

1. Diwali is a big **festival** for many people in India and around the world. It is often called the Festival of **Lights**. It is an important time for Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities.
2. Families clean and decorate their homes. They use small oil **lamps**, electric lights and **candles**. The lights make homes look bright and welcoming.
3. People visit **family** and friends. They may give gifts and eat special food. Many people share **sweets** with visitors.
4. Diwali is a time for happiness, family and hope. Different people have different stories and customs. Light is an important symbol for many people.

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UNDERSTAND, DISCUSS AND WRITE

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

1. What is Diwali often called?

2. Who celebrates Diwali?

3. What do families use to decorate homes?

4. What do people share with visitors?

5. What is Diwali a time for?

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

- Do you like lights and candles?
- What food do you give visitors?
- What makes a home welcoming?
- What festival is important in your family?

5. Homework: Write a short paragraph.

Write 5-6 sentences about a festival with food, lights or decorations.

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ANSWER KEY AND TEACHING NOTE

Vocabulary matching

1. light - B
2. lamp - D
3. candle - F
4. family - A
5. sweets - E
6. festival - C

Comprehension answers

1. What is Diwali often called?

It is often called the Festival of Lights.

2. Who celebrates Diwali?

Many Hindu, Jain and Sikh people celebrate it.

3. What do families use to decorate homes?

They use lamps, lights and candles.

4. What do people share with visitors?

They share sweets.

5. What is Diwali a time for?

It is a time for happiness, family and hope.

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.