



Diwali



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What Is Diwali?

Diwali is a very special celebration for Hindu people.

It is also celebrated by Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists.

It is a celebration of light over dark and good over evil.

It is also known as the 'festival of lights'.



Can you think of a time when you have celebrated something special?

When Is Diwali?

Diwali takes place every year. It lasts for five days.

It is the Hindu new year.

The dates change every year but it usually falls between October and November.



Can you think of any other celebrations in October or November?

How Is Diwali Celebrated?

Diwali is celebrated in lots of different ways.
Click on the pictures below to find out more.



Cleaning and Tidying



Rangoli



**Visiting the
Temple**



Diya Lamps



Fireworks



Family Feast

Cleaning and Tidying

Cleaning and tidying is a big part of Diwali. Hindu people believe the goddess Lakshmi visits clean homes.

Lots of friends and family will also visit each other during Diwali. Hindu people will make sure their home is neat and tidy so that their guests feel welcome.



Sometimes, they will give away things they no longer need, like old toys and clothes, and replace them with new things.



Diya Lamps

Each Diwali, people light hundreds of lamps, called **diyas**. They can be found in houses, shops and in the streets.

Diyas are usually made out of clay.



Hindu people believe these lights will welcome the goddess Lakshmi into their homes.



Rangoli

Rangoli patterns are thought to bring good luck.

People make rangoli patterns at the entrance to their homes. This is to welcome the goddess Lakshmi.



What colours can you see?

Rangoli can be made using lots of different things. Some people make them with flowers. They can also be made using coloured rice or powders.



Visiting the Temple

Visiting the temple is a very important part of Diwali. Hindu people will get up very early and put on special new clothes.

They will often take food and sweets to the temple to offer to the goddess Lakshmi.

Inside, they will pray to the goddess. Then, everyone from the town will help to decorate the temple.



Family Feast

Each Diwali, Hindu people will share a huge feast with their families. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins will all get together for a big meal.

They might eat:



pakora



aloo tikki



samosas



gulab jamun



bhajis



Fireworks

Fireworks are very popular during Diwali. Towns and cities will put on firework displays, but people also have fireworks at home.

Fireworks are used to celebrate Diwali because it is the celebration of light over dark.



Have you ever been to a fireworks display?



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