



Celebrating Diwali

“Diwali celebrates light over darkness and the hope that good will happen...”

What is Diwali?

Diwali is a very important celebration for Hindus and Sikhs all across the world.

It celebrates light over darkness and the hope that good will happen.

The festival celebrates new beginnings and the Hindu New Year however it is usually celebrated in October or November – when the nights are dark and cool.

It is known as the “festival of lights” because the word Diwali means rows of lighted lamps.

Who do they worship?

The Hindu religion has many gods however the god Vishnu is important at Diwali.

Vishnu is a god who cares for the world and can come to Earth in different **incarnations**.

This is Vishnu when he came to Earth as Prince Rama and this is celebrated at Diwali.



The story of Rama and Sita

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpNNF4fB4g> from 0:25

The lights are a symbol of the people guiding them home and this is why people now put lights around their homes and temples, to remind themselves of the story of Rama and Sita.



Lakshmi

The god Lakshmi is also celebrated at the time of Diwali as it is her birthday.

What do you think she might bring to people looking at the picture?

She is the goddess who brings good luck and makes people rich and successful.

Hindus and Sikhs open up their home to her in the hope that she will bring them wealth and success in the new year to come.



How Diwali is celebrated

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5Rff0jd2nVdmvDysp5cmwQ2/diwali-the-festival-of-light>

The next clip shows how two children prepare and celebrate for Diwali.

Think about;

What do Reg and his sister do to celebrate Diwali?

How Diwali is celebrated

What do Reg and his sister do to celebrate Diwali?

- Clean the house
- Whole family gets together
- Wear new clothes
- Decorate doorsteps with Rangoli patterns
- Light candles
- Decorate homes and streets with light
- Fireworks are set off



How Diwali is celebrated

If Hindus live too far away from each other, instead they celebrate at a temple.

They bring small plates of food and flowers to the gods as an offering and ring the temple bell to say a prayer.



Reflection



Hindus and Sikhs celebrate Diwali to recognise and celebrate the light in their lives, and thus defeating the darkness.

For 30 seconds, reflect on what brings light and positivity into your own lives.

