



DIWALI **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

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Before You Read

Discuss:

1. What festivals do people celebrate in your country?
2. Why are lights often used during celebrations?
3. Do festivals help bring families together?

Reading

Diwali – The Festival of Lights

Diwali is one of the most important festivals celebrated in India and by Indian communities around the world. It is often called the **Festival of Lights** because homes, streets, and buildings are decorated with lamps, candles, and colorful lights.

The festival usually lasts for several days and is a time for family gatherings, special meals, gift-giving, and celebrations. Many people wear new clothes, visit relatives, and enjoy traditional sweets.

One of the most famous traditions is lighting **diyas**, small oil lamps that symbolize light overcoming darkness and good overcoming evil. People also create colorful **rangoli** patterns outside their homes to welcome guests and bring good luck.

Fireworks are often part of the celebrations, and many towns and cities become bright and colorful during the festival. For many families, Diwali is a time of happiness, gratitude, and new beginnings.

Today, Diwali is celebrated not only in India but also in many countries around the world, making it one of the most widely recognized cultural festivals.

Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

Word	Meaning
community	to represent something
gratitude	a group of people living together or sharing a culture
symbolize	known and accepted by many people
tradition	feeling thankful
gathering	a custom passed from generation to generation
recognized	a meeting of people

Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions.

1. Why is Diwali called the Festival of Lights?
2. How long does the festival usually last?
3. What are diyas?
4. Why do people create rangoli patterns?
5. What activities do families enjoy during Diwali?
6. Why is Diwali important to many people?

True or False?

1. Diwali is celebrated only in India.
2. Diyas are small oil lamps.
3. Rangoli patterns are made to decorate homes.
4. Families often exchange gifts during Diwali.
5. Diwali is sometimes called the Festival of Lights.

Discussion

Discuss with a partner.

1. Which Diwali tradition do you find most interesting?
2. Why do people enjoy celebrating festivals?
3. Are family celebrations important in your culture?
4. Would you like to experience Diwali? Why or why not?
5. What festival would you recommend to a visitor in your country?

Fast Finisher

Three Words

Choose three words that describe Diwali.

Examples:

- colorful
- joyful
- traditional
- beautiful
- meaningful
- exciting

Explain your choices.

Teacher's Key

Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

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community	a group of people living together or sharing a culture
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recognized	known and accepted by many people

True or False?

1. Diwali is celebrated only in India. ***False***
2. Diyas are small oil lamps. ***True***
3. Rangoli patterns are made to decorate homes. ***True***
4. Families often exchange gifts during Diwali. ***True***
5. Diwali is sometimes called the Festival of Lights. ***True***