



DIWALI **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**

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Before You Read

Discuss:

1. Why are cultural festivals important?
2. Should traditions change over time?
3. Can festivals help connect people from different backgrounds?

Reading

Diwali: More Than a Celebration

Diwali is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in the world. Although it began in India, it is now celebrated by millions of people across many countries.

Often called the Festival of Lights, Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. For many people, the festival is not only a celebration but also a time for reflection, gratitude, and new beginnings.

Families gather to share meals, exchange gifts, and decorate their homes with diyas, candles, and colorful lights. Traditional rangoli patterns are created to welcome guests and add beauty to homes and public spaces.

In recent years, Diwali has become increasingly international. Schools, businesses, and communities around the world often organize special events to celebrate the festival and promote cultural understanding.

However, modern celebrations have also raised questions. Some people express concerns about the environmental impact of fireworks and large public events. Others argue that traditions can evolve while still maintaining their cultural importance.

Despite these discussions, Diwali remains a powerful symbol of hope, family, community, and positive values.

Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

Word	Meaning
reflection	to develop or change over time
gratitude	knowledge and awareness of others
evolve	to continue or preserve
impact	careful thought about something
maintain	appreciation and thankfulness
understanding	effect or influence

Reading Comprehension

1. Why is Diwali called the Festival of Lights?
2. What values does the festival represent?
3. How do families celebrate Diwali?
4. Why has Diwali become more international?
5. What concerns do some people have about modern celebrations?
6. Why does Diwali remain important today?

Analysis

Discuss:

1. Why do festivals help preserve culture?
2. Can traditions remain important in modern society?
3. Should celebrations change to become more environmentally friendly?
4. What values should festivals teach future generations?

Teacher's Key

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Match the words to their meanings.

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