

Name _____

Diwali: The Festival of Lights

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is one of the most important festivals celebrated by Hindus around the world. It is a joyous and colorful festival that signifies the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. Let's explore the history and celebrations of Diwali!



The history of Diwali dates back thousands of years to ancient India.

The festival has its roots in Hindu mythology and is associated with several legends and stories. One of the most famous stories is the return of Lord Rama to his kingdom after defeating the demon king Ravana. The people of Ayodhya, Rama's kingdom, welcomed him by lighting lamps and rejoicing. Diwali celebrates this victorious return and symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

Diwali is celebrated over a period of five days, usually in October or November. The preparations begin weeks in advance as families clean and decorate their homes, making them sparkle and shine. They create beautiful rangoli patterns using colored powders, flowers, and rice to decorate the entrance of their homes.

On the main day of Diwali, people light diyas (oil lamps) and place them around their homes, filling the surroundings with a warm and welcoming glow. The lighting of diyas is believed to bring prosperity and drive away darkness and negativity. Fireworks are also a prominent feature of the celebrations, adding sparkle and excitement to the night sky.

During Diwali, families come together to offer prayers and seek blessings from deities. They visit temples, perform religious rituals, and offer sweets and fruits as offerings. It is a time for reflection, gratitude, and seeking blessings for a prosperous future.

Another exciting aspect of Diwali is the exchange of gifts and sweets. Families and friends exchange beautifully wrapped presents as a symbol of love and affection. It is also a time for indulging in delicious treats and sharing festive meals with loved ones.

One of the most popular sweets enjoyed during Diwali is called "mithai." It comes in various flavors and forms, such as ladoos, barfis, and jalebis. These sweet delicacies are made with ingredients like milk, nuts, and sugar, and they add to the festive spirit of Diwali.

Diwali is not only celebrated by Hindus but also by people from different religious and cultural backgrounds. It is a time of unity and togetherness as communities come together to enjoy the festivities. In some countries, public spaces and buildings are adorned with colorful lights and decorations, creating a festive atmosphere.

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Reading Comprehension Questions:



1. What is Diwali?
2. What does Diwali celebrate?
3. What is the significance of lighting diyas during Diwali?
4. How do families prepare for Diwali celebrations?
5. Why is the exchange of gifts and sweets an important part of Diwali?