

Diwali Teaching notes

Aims

- To present and practise Diwali vocabulary, to recycle the present simple and question words.
- To encourage students to discuss Diwali celebrations, to promote creativity, to encourage students to express their opinions to the class.

What do you need?

A large sheet of paper for each student; pencils, crayons or felt tips; scissors and glue; old magazines.

Vocabulary and reading

Exercise 1

- Ask the students to look at the six photos. Ask them what they think the worksheet is about. Ask them which religion it is. Write their answers on the board.
- Ask if they can name any of the objects. Elicit answers and write them on the board.
- Pre-teach the remaining words and write them on the board. Ask students to repeat the words and check their pronunciation. Then remove the words from the board.
- Ask the students to complete exercise 1.

Answers

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 1 lamps | 4 temple |
| 2 goddess | 5 gifts |
| 3 prayer | |

Exercise 2

- Tell the students they are going to read a text about Diwali. Read the question and ask the students to read the text quickly.

Answer

People put lamps in their homes because they want to encourage Lakshmi to visit.

This is a good opportunity to discuss what they know about the Hindu festival of Diwali, how it is celebrated in other countries in the world, whether they have celebrated it, etc.

Refer back to the answers on the board from exercise 1.

Exercise 3

- Ask the students to read the text again and answer the questions.

Answers

- 1 People celebrate Diwali in October or November.
- 2 The festival lasts for five days.
- 3 Diyas are small oil lamps.
- 4 Lakshmi is the goddess of wealth and prosperity.
- 5 During Diwali, Hindus say prayers, go to the temple and visit friends and family.
- 6 Today the gifts are larger and more expensive.

Project: Make a poster

Exercise 1

- Ask the students to match 1–6 with the phrases and the pictures.

Answers

- 1 b, i 2 d, vi 3 e, iii 4 a, v 5 c, iv

Exercise 2

- Ask the students to make a poster about the Diwali festival. They are provided with an example, but should be encouraged to present the information in any way they like.
- They should use the title given in the example, and should include as much information as they can.
- Encourage them to decorate their posters with drawings or cut-outs from magazines.

Exercise 3

- Ask students to show their posters to the class. They should talk through what they have written and also say which Diwali tradition they like the best and why.

Diwali

Vocabulary and reading

1 Write the correct word under the pictures.

gifts goddess lamps prayers sweets temple



sweets



1



2



3



4



5

2 Read the text. Why do people put lamps in their homes?

Diwali, or the festival of lights, is the most important Hindu festival. It takes place in October or November and lasts for five days.

People light hundreds of small oil lamps called Diyas and put them inside and outside their homes. They hope this will encourage Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity, to visit. During Diwali, Hindus say prayers, go to the temple and visit friends and family. They decorate their houses with bright colours and wear traditional dress.

The festival is popular with children because they can eat special sweets and they receive a lot of presents. In the past these were dry fruits, but today the gifts are larger and more expensive.

3 Read the text again and answer the questions.

1 When do people celebrate Diwali?

2 How long does the festival last?

3 What are Diyas?

4 Who is Lakshmi?

5 What do Hindus do during Diwali?

6 In what way are Diwali gifts different today?

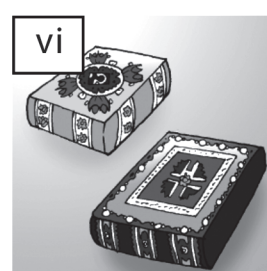
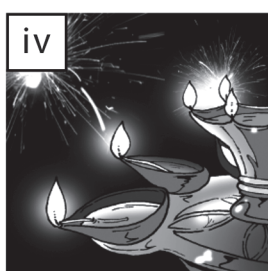
Diwali

Project: Make a poster

1 Match words 1–5 with the phrases a–e and the pictures.

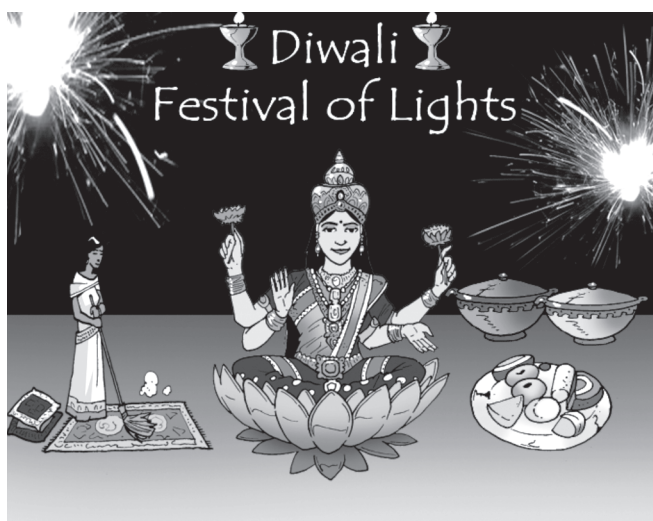
Diwali is about ... f ii

- 1 Lakshmi _____
 - 2 gifts _____
 - 3 food _____
 - 4 new beginnings _____
 - 5 things to see _____
- a new clothes, clean the house
 - b four arms, gold and red clothes
 - c decorations, lamps, candles, fireworks
 - d dried fruit, sweets, books, gold and silver
 - e sweets, snacks, vegetarian curries
 - f wealth and prosperity



2 Make a poster.

- Use the phrases a–f from exercise 1.
- Draw pictures of the items.
- Add as much information as you can.
- Use the poster here to help you, or design your own.



3 Show your poster to the class. Tell them which Diwali tradition you like the best and why.