

Name: _____

Subject: Celebrations

Date: _____

Sheet: Diwali

The Celebration of Diwali



Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' and is celebrated between mid-October and mid-December. It is one of the most important festivals of the year for Hindus and celebrates the New Year.

Hindu families celebrate Diwali by performing traditional activities together in their homes. Small clay lamps filled with oil are lit to celebrate Diwali. Hindus place them in their gardens, on the roof tops and in their courtyards. The oil in the lamp signifies the triumph of good over evil. The house is cleaned so that Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good fortune, feels welcome in their homes. Hindus also light firecrackers so that any evil spirits are driven away.

The Diwali celebration lasts for 5 days. The fourth day is the Hindu New Year.

Diwali is celebrated to welcome the return of Prince Rama and his wife, Sita, who were sent to live in a forest and banished for fourteen years. They were ordered to leave their home in Ayodhya by the King.

After a few years Ravana, the ten headed demon, kidnapped Sita and took her to his island of Lanka.

Hanuman, the monkey warrior, helped Rama to rescue his wife. Oil lamps were lit by the people of Ayodhya to guide Rama and Sita safely home.

When Rama and Sita returned home, Rama was crowned king.

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The Celebration of Diwali - Questions

- a** What is Diwali known as? _____
- b** When is Diwali celebrated? _____
- c** What does the oil in the lamps signify? _____
- d** Who is Lakshmi? _____
- e** Why do Hindus light firerackers? _____
- f** How long is Diwali celebrated? _____
- g** Why is Diwali celebrated? _____
- h** Who ordered Rama and Sita to leave their home? _____
- i** Where were they sent to live? _____
- j** Where did Ravana take Sita? _____
- k** Who helped Rama rescue Sita? _____
- l** Why did the people of Ayodhya light oil lamps?
- _____