

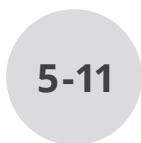
A FREE RESOURCE PACK FROM EDUCATIONCITY

---

# Diwali



Classroom  
Resources



Age  
Suitability

# Diwali Topical Teaching Resources

## What Does This Pack Include?

This pack has been created by teachers for teachers. In it, you'll find high quality teaching resources, including Fact Sheets and Lesson Plans, to help your students celebrate Diwali, a bright and colourful festival celebrated every year to mark new beginnings.

To go directly to the content, simply click on the title in the index below:

FACT SHEETS:	
1. Diwali	2. How Is Diwali Celebrated?
<b>Learning Objective:</b> Discover the meaning of Diwali and the history behind this special event.	<b>Learning Objective:</b> Discover how Diwali is celebrated and the importance of its traditions.

LESSON PLANS:	
1. Diwali	2. Design a Rangoli Pattern
<b>Learning Objective:</b> Explore the religious aspects of Diwali in more detail.	<b>Learning Objective:</b> Find out about Rangoli patterns and how they are designed.
<b>60 minute Lesson Plan</b>	<b>60 minute Lesson Plan</b>

Known as the festival of light, Diwali is an important festival celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs and Jains worldwide. Also recognised as the start of the Hindu New Year, Diwali has also been adopted as a traditional celebration across India and Nepal. So why do Hindus, Sikhs and Jains celebrate Diwali?

### Why Hindus celebrate Diwali

- At Diwali, Hindus pray to Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of wealth.
- Hindus celebrate the birthday of Lakshmi during Diwali and her marriage to the God Vishnu is also celebrated at this time.
- They also celebrate the homecoming of Lord Rama after he was banished from his home in Ayodhya by his father and sent to live in the forest.



The story of Rama and Sita

- When banished from his home, Rama takes his wife Sita and his half-brother Lakshmana to live with him in the forest for many years. One day Sita is kidnapped by the ten-headed demon Ravana but is finally rescued by Rama and Lakshmana with the help of Hanuman the monkey. Rama, Sita and Lakshmana finally return to their home in Ayodhya after living in the forest for fourteen years. They are greeted by the local people who line the streets with lights as a welcoming sign. He was then made king.

### Why Sikhs celebrate Diwali

- For Sikhs, Diwali is a time to celebrate the release from prison of the sixth guru, Guru Hargobind, who was wrongly imprisoned.

The imprisonment of Guru Hargobind

- In 1619, Guru Hargobind is released from prison by Emperor Jahangir. However, he refuses to leave until an additional 52 Indian kings and princes, who were also falsely imprisoned, are also released. The emperor finally agrees but says only those who can hold on to Guru Hargobind's coat tails can leave. Guru Hargobind sews into the hem of his coat 52 pieces of string, and each one is able to leave.

### Why Jains celebrate Diwali

- For Jains, Diwali is a time to remember the teachings of Lord Mahavir, who reached the state of enlightenment on October 15th, 527BC.

A common theme runs through all Diwali celebrations, which is that good triumphs over evil.



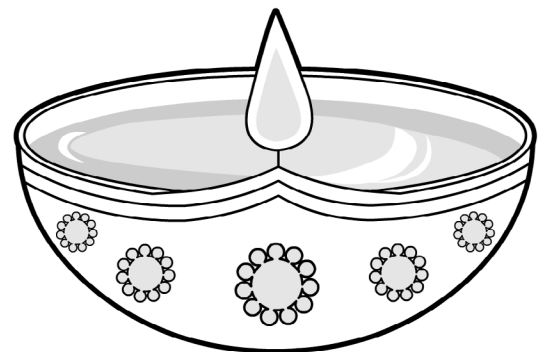
As part of traditional celebrations, Indian people celebrate Diwali with special food and fireworks. They also decorate their houses with diya lamps and Rangoli patterns. So how is Diwali celebrated, and what is the importance of these traditions?

## The Five Days of Diwali

- Diwali is celebrated in October or November. It follows twenty days after the sacred Hindu festival of Dussehra.
- The festival of Diwali lasts for five days and each day has a special importance.
- On the first day the home is cleaned in preparation for all the guests that may be welcomed.
- The home is decorated with diya lamps and rangoli patterns on the second day.
- On the third day, families join together in prayer or puja to the goddess Lakshmi hoping she will grant them wealth during the coming year.
- The fourth day is also known as the first day of the Hindu New Year. Friends and families meet and share gifts and food.
- On the fifth day, it is tradition for sisters to welcome their brothers into their homes for a meal.

## Diya Lamps

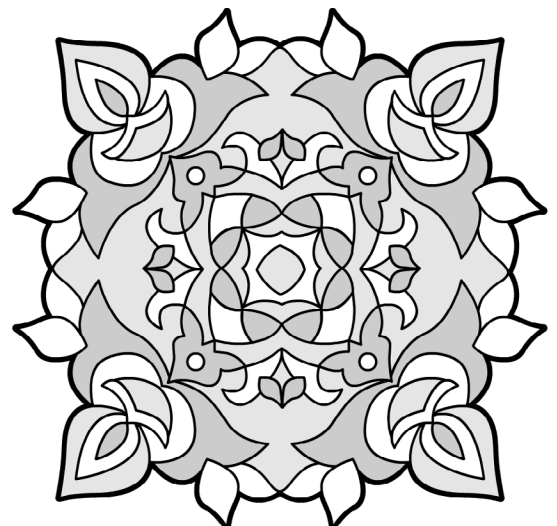
- During the festival of Diwali, people decorate their homes with simple lights placed in clay pots called diyas.
- Diya lamps are used to light up homes in remembrance of how the streets were lined with lights to welcome Lord Rama back to his home in Ayodhya.
- Hindus believe that Lakshmi wanders the earth looking for homes to visit during Diwali, so they light diya lamps to welcome her.



Diya Lamp

## Rangoli Patterns

- Doorsteps of homes are decorated with colourful geometric patterns.
- These Rangoli patterns are made with coloured rice, flour and sand.
- Again, Hindus hope that as Lakshmi wanders the Earth, she will notice their Rangoli patterns and visit the home giving wealth to those that live there.



Rangoli Pattern

# Diwali Lesson Plan

## Overview

In this 60 minute activity, students have the opportunity to explore the religious aspects of Diwali in more detail. Students research different faiths and draw conclusions about the themes running through each one. They then use their research to make an informational poster to display in class for other students to look at. Additional time will be needed to complete the posters.

## Materials

### Resources and organisation:

- Access to the Internet for research
- Access to the EducationCity Mind Map Topic Tool
- Reference books related to Diwali
- Organise the students into groups of four
- A4 paper
- Pencils, felt tip pens and colouring pencils

## Lesson Structure

- 0-10 minutes** Talk to the students about Diwali and make a mind map of what they know already. This could be recorded using a flip chart or the EducationCity Mind Map Topic Tool.
- 10-15 minutes** Review the students' findings and emphasise the fact that although Diwali is universally celebrated across India, it is of particular importance to Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. In addition, highlight the beliefs associated with Diwali, should the students have mentioned them, or explain that there are various tales associated with the different religions. Mention the various stories, for example Rama and Sita, the goddess Lakshmi, Guru Hargobind and Lord Mahavir, and explain to the students that you would like them to work in groups to research one of them in greater detail.
- 15-35 minutes** Allocate particular tales to the students and provide them with an opportunity to carry out their research using the Internet, reference books or both. Circulate as the students carry out their research to support and assess their understanding.
- 35-45 minutes** Draw the class back together and discuss what they have found out. Discuss the common theme that runs through the tales, highlighting the fact that good wins out over evil in each one. Then explain to the students that you would like them to use the information to make a factual poster about the story they have researched. Discuss with the students how they could approach this and model various ways in which it could be done.
- 45-60 minutes** Share out the resources and set the students off on their task. As the students design their posters, circulate to share ideas. Additional time may be needed to complete the posters.

# Design a Rangoli Pattern Lesson Plan

## Overview

In this 60 minute activity, students have the opportunity to find out about Rangoli patterns and how they are designed. They then design and make their own using rice, flour and paints. Depending on the complexity of the designs, additional time may be needed to complete the patterns.

## Materials

### Resources and organisation:

- Examples of Rangoli patterns
- Sketch books or draft paper
- Sugar paper - one piece per child
- Rice
- Paints
- Flour
- Glue

## Lesson Structure

- 0-10 minutes** Talk to the students about what Rangoli patterns are used for and why. Then show them some examples from books and the Internet. Elicit the understanding that people draw Rangoli patterns to decorate their front doorsteps and welcome people into their homes. Also, remind students that Hindus believe that the Goddess Lakshmi appears during Diwali and that having a Rangoli pattern may encourage her to visit their home, and so bestow wealth on them. Discuss the way they are made and if students do not mention it, explain that they are often symmetrical and almost always made from a geometrical pattern. Also, look at the colours that are used to decorate them and what resources are used to make them. Ask students to think about why they are so colourful.
- 10-20 minutes** In sketchbooks, ask students to set about designing their own Rangoli pattern, taking in the need for it to be geometrical in nature. Display examples around the classroom to support this design process. Circulate to share students' designs.
- 20-30 minutes** Once students have completed their design, draw the class back together and talk about how they can decorate their patterns. Highlight the fact that flour and rice can be used and discuss how they can add paint to them, thereby adding colour. Discuss how they can dip the resources in paint or mix the two together.
- 30-60 minutes** Give students an A3 sheet of paper so that they can transfer their design and start decorating it. Additional time may be needed to complete the patterns.



# About EducationCity

EducationCity produces fun, educational materials to engage students in learning and empower teachers to tailor their teaching. **Take a look at how EducationCity can support you in the classroom:**



## Target Lesson Objectives Easily

Find relevant content that links to your curriculum by using our Curriculum Map or Search tool.

Comprehensive and clearly organised by strand, content is so easy to access!



## Plan in Advance

When planning your lessons, choose your Activities in advance and put them into a MyCity so they're easy for students to access. Choose a meaningful name for each MyCity and you'll be able to update and retrieve them year after year!



## Differentiated Teaching

Monitor progress with SuccessTracker and you'll be able to identify the strengths and areas of development for each of your students and so choose relevant activities to help them progress.



## Flexible Learning

EducationCity is accessible via desktops, laptops, tablets and whiteboards, so can support you whatever equipment is available in your classroom.



## Additional Resources

Access our ready-made Lesson Plans and topical content to support teaching and learning in the classroom.

There's more to EducationCity than Activities alone!



## Assessment

Check students' learning with formative, summative and unit assessments. Curriculum-correlated, pre-prepared and easy to set, they give instant feedback to inform your next steps.



**“Teachers have been delighted with the content of this package and most impressed with how easy it is to find appropriate learning and teaching resources and then to use them in a variety of ways.”**

**Mark Sanderson,**

Senior ICT Consultant, Herefordshire Learning and Achievement Service



If you are a UK customer, please contact us using the details below:

educationcity.com  
+44 (0)1572 725080  
customerservice@educationcity.com



If you are a customer outside of the UK, please contact us using the details below:

edmentuminternational.com  
+44 (0)1572 492576  
international@edmentum.com

