

Hinduism: How does celebrating Diwali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a child?

Key Facts/Beliefs

Hinduism is the third biggest religion. 80% of India celebrate Hinduism.

It is the world's oldest religion.

Brahman is the supreme God present in all things.

Brahman takes on many forms including gods and goddesses.



Key Celebration: Diwali

Diwali, the Hindu 'festival of lights', is celebrated in India and Britain during Autumn.

Diwali celebrates the return of Rama and Sita, who were banished from their home by their father, the King.

It is a story of good beating bad.

To celebrate, people light hundreds of small oil lamps. This represents lighting the way home for Rama and Sita.

During Diwali, gifts and cards are exchanged, homes are decorated, oil lamps are lit and fireworks set off.

Diwali is also celebrated by Sikhs.

Artefacts and symbols

**Diya lamp** Symbolises goodness and purity by removing darkness.

**Bhagvad Gita** One of the most important religious texts of Hinduism.

**Diwali festival cards** Cards given to family and friends to celebrate.



Worship

Most Hindus worship every day at home and have a shrine there.

The Hindu building for communal worship is called a Mandir (Hindu temple).

Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods, goddesses and repeat mantras.

Water, fruit, flowers and incense are offered to the gods.

Important Hindu festivals

Most Hindu festivals are linked with the sun, moon and seasons.

Holi is another celebration: the festival of colours.

Key Vocabulary

**Rama** An Avatar of Vishnu and a role model for Hindus. He shows love and loyalty.

**Sita** An Avatar of Lakshmi and a role model for Hindus. She shows love and loyalty.

**Ravana** A demon king on the island of Lanka.

**Hanuman** Monkey God of wisdom and strength.

**faith** Trusting in someone or something.

**tolerance** Accepting others who are different to yourself.

