



India: Diwali

Pre-visit Activity: Background Reading

Diwali is the name of an important holiday in India. Because there are many farms in India, Diwali began as a way to celebrate the time of year when crops were harvested. This is the reason Diwali is celebrated in October or November.

Diwali is a time to celebrate good winning over bad. The use of light is one way to show goodness, so during Diwali, people light candles and put them inside clay pots called diyas. They put the lighted diyas on welcome mats outside their doors. These welcome mats are called rangoli. The rangoli is created by using colored sand, rice, or flower petals.

There are many things people do to celebrate Diwali:

1. Spend time with families
2. Have big meals with family and friends
3. Take food to neighbors
4. Go to the temple
5. Create special welcome mats at their front doors
6. Wear bright clothing
7. Shoot fireworks

Diwali Vocabulary Words:

1. Holiday – a special day of celebration when most people do not work
2. Celebrate – to do something special for an important event
3. Harvest – to gather crops so they can be used
4. Temple – a building where people go to worship
5. Welcome Mat (rangoli)– a beautiful design at the front door
6. Diya – a small clay lamp

Source: <http://www.abcworldculture.com/#mode=country®ionId=66&uri=country-content&nid=20.38&key=facts-holidays>

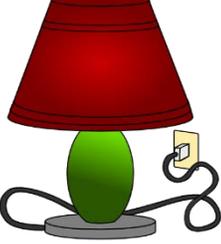


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Pre-visit Activity: Vocabulary

Name: _____ Date: _____

In each row, circle the picture that best defines the vocabulary word:

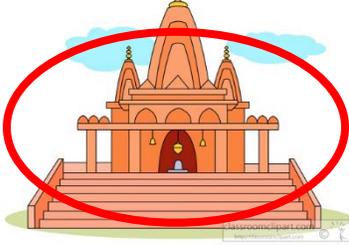
Celebrate		
Harvest Crops		
Temple		
Diya		



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Pre-visit Activity: Vocabulary KEY

In each row, circle the picture that best defines the vocabulary word:

Celebrate		
Harvest Crops		
Temple		
Diya	