

Diwali - the festival of light

1. Have the webpage open

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-diwali-the-festival-of-light/zkgpm39>

2. As the pupils enter

Play your chosen music and display the gallery of diva lights:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-diwali-the-festival-of-light-diva-light-gallery/z3yxjsg>

3. Introduction

You may wish to begin by asking pupils what significant words they have heard in your chosen music. Then...

Look at the pictures. What is the same in each of them? [Allow time for responses] Those little candles are called divas and they are lit at about this time of year as part of the celebration of the Hindu festival of Diwali. Candles and light are an important part of many festivals and celebrations. To find out why candles and light are so important to the festival of Diwali we're going to hear from two young people, who welcome us into their home as they are getting ready for Diwali...

4. Play the video

Click on the 'Play video' button to load the video page. Display the video full-size using the toolbar buttons. The duration is 3' 41". The final words are: '...Happy New Year!' + music (fades).

5. Discussion

Ask pupils to turn to their partner and say two things they remember about the video. Then ask the following questions, which are covered in the video:

1. What is Diwali? (The Hindu festival of light).
2. What story do Hindus remember at Diwali? (Rama and Sita).
3. What do Hindu families do to prepare for the festival of Diwali? (Spring clean homes and exchange gifts).
4. Who is Lakshmi? (The Hindu goddess of wealth).
5. How do Hindus invite Lakshmi into their homes? (They make Rangoli patterns and light candles).

6. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

*What makes you see the light..?
Sometimes we have to search for a light when life isn't great...
When you are searching for the light in your life, what helps you to see brightness..?
Are there any barriers to the light in your life..?
Are you the light for somebody in your life..?*

8. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your standard form of address (Dear God, etc):
*You tell me to walk in your light.
I hope that I can walk in your light and create my own light for others to see and feel.
Help me to be a bright beacon of light so that I can guide the way for others.
When I struggle to see your light, remind me where it is so that I can live a truly colourful, bright*