



# Hinduism and Diwali

## Hinduism

Hinduism is the oldest of the World's religions. It is now practised all over the World but originated in South East Asia. It is a mix of different beliefs, cultures and traditions dating back over 4000 years.



## Diya lamps



A diya lamp is a small clay pot filled with ghee or oil and containing a cotton wick. It is used as a decoration during the festival of Diwali.

## Special Places for Hindus

Hindus can worship at home or in a mandir. In a mandir, Hindus can perform puja.

Some mandirs are very tall buildings. Hindus believe it brings them closer to heaven.

In a mandir, there are shrines and lots of murtis for different gods. Offerings of flowers are brought to the murtis.



## Diwali

Diwali is an Autumn festival, sometimes called the Festival of Lights. During Diwali, Hindus retell the story of Rama and Sita. The story of Rama is one where Vishnu (Preserver) comes to preserve the world by helping good win over evil. Diwali is celebrated all over the world, not just in India. The biggest celebrations in the UK are in Leicester. Diwali is a joyful time. Houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called divas. People enjoy fireworks and sweets. Food is prepared and gifts are given.

## Key Vocabulary

Deity	Form of God in different incarnations.
Diwali	Hindu festival of lights, celebrated in October or November.
Festival	Day or period of celebration, typically for religious reasons.
God/Goddess	Deities which represent aspects of the one true God in male or female form.
Hindu	Someone who practises the religion of Hinduism.
Holi	Hindu spring festival, also known as the festival of colours.
Murti	Image or statue of a deity.
Rangoli	Art form in which patterns are created on the floor, usually during festivals.
Reincarnation	Idea that a soul is reborn in many bodies again and again in its journey for perfection.
Supreme Being	Brahman; the Supreme God or Ultimate Reality.
Trimurti	Three main male deities; Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva.

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