



DIWALI

28th October 2008

WALT understand the meaning of the festival of Diwali.

What is Diwali?

- Diwali is a Hindu festival which lasts for 5 days.
- It is also celebrated by Sikhs.
- Diwali means “row of lighted lamps” and is often called the Festival of Lights.
- The festival celebrates good over evil; light over darkness.
- The Goddess of Wealth (Lakshmi) is honoured during Diwali which is also considered to be the Hindu New Year.
- Because there are many regions in India, Diwali is celebrated in many different ways (and also all over the World.)
- Diwali is also used to celebrate a successful harvest.

What happens during Diwali?

- Wearing new clothes
- Spring cleaning houses
 - Having feasts

Decorating homes and buildings with fancy lights, candles and lamps (divas)





Fireworks displays

Exchanging sweets and gifts



Drawing Rangoli patterns on floors

Rangoli patterns are drawn to welcome in visitors to people's homes. They are also thought to welcome the Goddess of Wealth.



Some of the ancient legends are re- enacted



The story of the demon Narakaasura

- This demon was an evil king. He ruled with a reign of terror, abducted 16,000 daughters of the gods, and stole the earrings of Aditi, mother of the gods.
- The gods asked Lord Krishna for help, and after a mighty battle he killed the demon, freed the girls, and recovered the earrings.
- After his victory Krishna returned very early in the morning and was bathed and massaged with scented oils. Taking an early morning bath with oil is still a Diwali tradition.

The story of Rama and Sita

- This is probably the most famous Diwali legend and many of the traditions practiced nowadays relate to the story.
- The demon Ravana had 10 arms and 10 heads and was a wicked King. He kidnapped Sita, the wife of Rama.
- Rama killed the demon and rescued his wife and returned to become King. The people lit rows of lamps to guide them home.
- We are now going to watch the story of Rama and Sita

What have you learned?

- What does Diwali mean?
- Who celebrates Diwali?
- What sorts of things do people do during Diwali?
- Can you think of any similar things you do at a special time of year?
- Do you know what the “moral of the story” is?