How Is Diwali Celebrated Around the World?

Visual lesson



Far away too?

"Nani," asks Jai, "do children far away celebrate Diwali too?" "My cousin in Singapore does!" says Mei. Nani lifts the star lantern. "Let's go and see," she says. "Hold hands!"





Marigolds in Nepal

The lantern opens onto a hillside town in Nepal, with snowy mountains far away. Here, the festival is called Tihar, and it lasts five days. Families are threading long garlands of orange marigolds. A friendly brown dog sniffs them.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> On one day of Tihar, who do you think gets one of these marigold garlands?

A day for dogs

On one day of Tihar, families thank dogs for being loyal friends. Each dog gets a marigold garland, a red dot on the forehead called a tika, and a tasty treat. And Laddoo gets a garland too!





Lights in Little India

Next, the lantern opens in Singapore, in a busy part of the city called Little India. Here, Diwali is called Deepavali. Huge arches of lights glow over the street, and families shop for flowers and sweets.

An open door

In Malaysia, many families have an open house on Deepavali. Their front door stays open all day, and long tables are full of food.

TALK ABOUT IT

Who do you think comes to a Deepavali open house?





Everyone is welcome

Everyone is welcome at an open house! Friends and neighbours of every background come to eat and talk together. Mei shares a plate of crunchy murukku with a new friend.

A street in England

Now the lantern opens in Leicester, a city in England. It has one of the biggest Diwali celebrations outside India. Thousands of people fill one long street, the lights switch on, and fireworks burst over the park.





Bamboo and lamps

Then the lantern opens in Trinidad and Tobago, an island country in the Caribbean. Families set little clay lamps on tall bamboo frames, bent into arches and stars. Whole villages glow.

Lamps up high

In New York City, in America, many families celebrate Diwali. Lamps glow in windows high above the streets, and families get together in their homes.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> New York City gave its public schools a holiday on Diwali. Why do you think it did?





Diwali everywhere

Pop! They step back home. Since 2024, New York City's public schools close for Diwali, so children can celebrate. "Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, England, Trinidad and Tobago, New York!" says Asha. "Diwali is everywhere!"

TALK ABOUT IT

What was the same in every place we visited?

Lights for everyone

Families celebrate Diwali in many countries and in many ways, and friends join in everywhere. Where in the world would you like to see Diwali?



Check your wonder

1 **In Nepal, who gets a marigold garland on one day of Tihar?**

- **A.** Dogs
- **B.** Only kings
- **C.** Only cars

2 **What is a Deepavali open house?**

- **A.** A home open to friends and neighbours of every background
- **B.** A house with no walls
- **C.** A shop that sells lamps

3 **Where do families set little lamps on tall bamboo frames?**

- **A.** Trinidad and Tobago
- **B.** Nepal
- **C.** New York City

4 **What was the same everywhere?**

- **A.** People lit lights and shared with friends
- **B.** Everyone ate the same food
- **C.** It was always called Tihar

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A 4-A

1. Yes! Dogs are thanked with garlands and a tika. 2. That's it: everyone is welcome. 3. Yes! Whole villages glow in Trinidad and Tobago. 4. Yes! Lights and sharing, all over the world.

THE END

Visual lesson



Put your child in this story

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