MADE WITH LITTLE STORYBOOK

What Is Diwali?

Visual lesson



What is all this for?

Mei from next door peeks over the garden wall. Asha and Jai are hanging a big paper star by Nani's blue door. "What is all this for?" asks Mei. "It is almost Diwali!" says Jai. Mei tilts her head. "What is Diwali?"





A little clay cup

Nani sits on the step and holds up a little clay cup. It has a twist of cotton string inside. "This is a diya," says Nani. Mei looks closely. It is round, and small enough to hold in one hand.

TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think a diya is for?

A little lamp

A diya is a little lamp! Nani pours in a drop of oil. When it is time, a grown-up lights the cotton string, and one tiny flame glows. On Diwali, families light lots and lots of them.





A night with no moon

Diwali comes once a year, in the autumn. It is on a special night, when there is no moon in the sky at all. Asha points up. Mei looks too. Not one bit of moon!

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> With no moon, what will Diwali night be like?

Light in the dark

So on Diwali night, families fill the dark with light! Diyas glow on steps, walls and windows. One flame is small. But lots of them together light up the whole street.





A pattern at the door

At the front door, Asha and Mei make a rangoli. It is a pattern of coloured powder and flower petals, right on the step where guests will walk in.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do people make a rangoli by the front door?

Welcome, everyone!

A rangoli says welcome! And on Diwali, lots of guests come. Aunties, uncles and cousins arrive in their special clothes, with big hugs for everyone.





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A box of sweets

Then Nani opens a big box of sweets. Inside are round yellow ladoos and sticky orange jalebis. Jai licks his lips. Nani closes the lid and picks up the box.

TALK ABOUT IT

Who can Nani share her sweets with?

The very first box

Nani gives the very first box to Mei's family! On Diwali, sweets are for sharing, with family, friends and neighbours. Mei's mum gives Nani a plate of dumplings to share back.





Happy Diwali!

Everyone stands together on Nani's steps, in the glow of the diyas. "So Diwali is lights, and welcomes, and sharing," says Mei. "Happy Diwali!" say Asha and Jai. What would you share on Diwali?

Check your wonder

1 **What is a diya?**

- **A.** A little clay lamp
- **B.** A clay cup for tea
- **C.** A kind of sweet

2 **Why is Diwali night so dark?**

- **A.** There is no moon in the sky
- **B.** The sun is hiding behind clouds
- **C.** Everyone turns off their lights

3 **What does a rangoli by the door say?**

- **A.** Welcome, come in!
- **B.** Please keep out
- **C.** Time for bed

4 **Who can you share Diwali sweets with?**

- **A.** Family, friends and neighbours
- **B.** Only your own family
- **C.** No one, they are a secret

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

1. Yes! A diya is a little clay lamp with one tiny flame. 2. That's it. Diwali is on a night with no moon. 3. Yes! A rangoli welcomes guests. 4. Yes! Nani gave the very first box to Mei's family.

THE END

Visual lesson



Put your child in this story

Free to try. Scan the code or visit

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