

Name: _____

Diwali

By Kathryn Premo

What's your favorite holiday? In India and other nearby countries, most children would answer Diwali. The word *Diwali* means *a row of lights*. During Diwali, people light rows of diyas, or clay lamps, and put them around their homes and places of worship to symbolize the victory of



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Day	Information
1	Dhanteras People clean their homes, go shopping, donate money to charity, and do selfless acts of service, such as feeding the hungry.
2	Chhoti Diwali Also called small Diwali. People create beautiful rangolis, colorful patterns on the floor made of flowers, powder, rice, or sand, in the front of their homes.
3	Diwali People dress in new clothes, go to temples, light diyas, enjoy feasts, watch fireworks, and spend time with family and friends.
4	Annakut, Padwa, Govardhan Puja This is the first day of the new year, so people exchange gifts to show their thankfulness for everything they have in their life.
5	Bhai Duj, Bhai Beej On this day, brothers go to their sisters' houses to enjoy a nice meal and spend time together.

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Many Hindus and people in northern India celebrate the return of Prince Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshmana from exile. Prince Rama was from the ancient city Ayodhya and was an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Prince Rama's evil stepmother did not want Prince Rama, the eldest son of the king, to become king. She wanted one of her own sons to become king. So, she convinced the king to banish him for 14 years.

terrible to the people in his kingdom and the people in the neighboring kingdom that he conquered. One day, he kidnapped all the beautiful young women in his kingdom! The very upset residents called upon Lord Krishna to save them. Lord Krishna fought a fierce battle and defeated Narakasura. This story of good conquering evil is a common



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army, they battled King Ravana, survived, and won Princess Sita back. After they completed their 14-year exile, they returned home to Ayodhya. To welcome them back, people lit lamps throughout the kingdom which caused the city to look like a row of lights. This is a part of the reason Diwali is called the "Festival of Lights."

People in southern India celebrate the day Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. Narakasura gave in to temptations of power and greed. He was

For Jains, Diwali is the day Lord Mahavira, the last great teacher of Jain dharma (the right way of living), achieved enlightenment or nirvana. Newar Buddhists celebrate Diwali as the day the great Emperor Ashoka converted to Buddhism.

Different religions and regions of India tell various stories and believe different things about Diwali, but they all have one thing in common. They are all based on the beliefs of good triumphing over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance.

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1. What is the author's purpose for writing the text?
 - a. to explain some of the Indian epics
 - b. to entertain the reader with stories of Diwali
 - c. to persuade the reader to celebrate Diwali
 - d. to explain about the topic of Diwali
2. How does paragraph 3 fit into the overall structure of the text?
 - a. Paragraph 3 explains why Diwali is called the "Festival of Lights."
 - b. The third paragraph does not fit into the overall structure of the text.
 - c. The third paragraph is included to add entertainment to the text.
 - d. Paragraph 3 explains the importance of Diwali.



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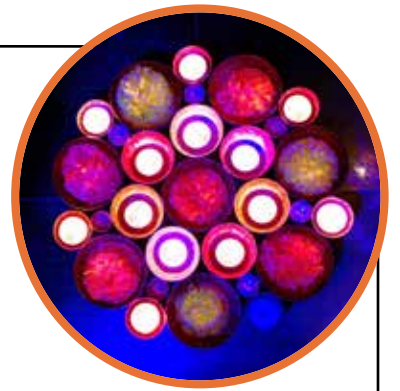
4. Fill in the table with one piece of evidence from the text that supports each of the author's points.

Point	Evidence
"This story of good conquering evil is a common theme throughout the celebration of Diwali."	
"Different religions and regions of India tell various stories and believe different things..."	

5. Explain how you know the story of Prince Rama is not based entirely in real life. Use text evidence to support your answer.

Name: _____

Diwali



The following terms are vocabulary words from the article.
Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. ____ banish | a. a god taking on a physical body |
| 2. ____ selfless | b. clay lamps |



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- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 6. ____ incarnation | f. to require to leave |
| 7. ____ rangolis | g. a final blessed state when a person finds the truth about life |
| 8. ____ dharma | h. a selfish desire for money |
| 9. ____ enlightenment | i. colorful patterns made on the floor |
| 10. ____ exile | j. not selfish |

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Write a summary of the article, "Diwali." Use text evidence to support your answer.



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ANSWER KEY

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1. What is the author's purpose for writing the text?
 - a. to explain some of the Indian epics
 - b. to entertain the reader with stories of Diwali
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2. How does paragraph 3 fit into the overall structure of the text?
 - a. Paragraph 3 explains the importance of Diwali as the "Festival of Lights."**
 - b. The third paragraph describes the history of the festival.
 - c. The third paragraph explains the importance of Diwali in the text.
 - d. Paragraph 3 explains the importance of Diwali in the text.
3. Reread the first sentence from the article.

After raising the army, they battled King Ravana, survived,



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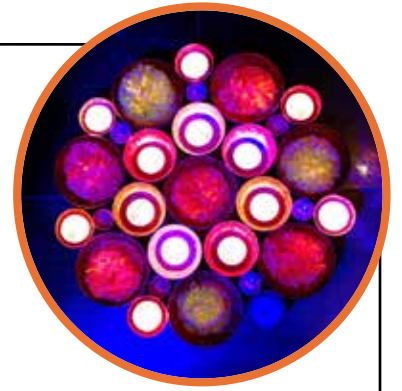
Point	Evidence
"This story is a common theme throughout the celebration of Diwali."	Answers may vary. An example is: "Lord Krishna fought a battle with the demon Narakasura and defeated him."
"Different religions of India tell various stories of the festival of Diwali. Some believe different things..."	Answers may vary. An example is: "Sikhs believe in the release of the souls of the dead from captivity."

5. Explain how you know the story of Prince Rama is not based entirely in real life. Use text evidence to support your answer.

Answers may vary. An example is: The story of Prince Rama is not based entirely in real life because of the inclusion of the money-king. The text states, "Prince Rama and his brother asked a great monkey-king for help in getting Sita back." This proves the story is not based in real life because there is no monkey-king walking around on Earth for humans to team up with.

ANSWER KEY

Diwali



The following terms are vocabulary words from the article.
Match the vocabulary word with its correct definition by writing the corresponding letter on the line.

1. f banish

a. a god taking on a physical body

2. j selfless

3. h greed

c. means row of lights



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finds the path to enlightenment

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