

<b>Divali (Diwali)</b>	<b>Year Group: KS1</b>	<b>No. of lessons: 4+</b>
<p><b>Learning objectives:</b> To hear a key story from Hinduism and engage with it at an appropriate level. To understand that Divali is an important festival in Hinduism and discover how it is celebrated in the UK as well as India.</p>		
<p><b>Themes to discuss:</b> Good and evil in conflict. Faithfulness. Courage. Welcoming others.</p>		
<p><b>Activities and experiences:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set the atmosphere in your teaching room by closing curtains, lighting candles / divas and burning incense sticks. Display posters or murtis of Rama and Sita if possible. Either sit in a circle to tell the story of Rama and Sita, or watch a video story. What do pupils find, interesting / puzzling / exciting about this story? Pick up the themes of the story in your discussion: light vs dark; good overcoming evil.</li> <li>• Think of pairs of opposite words that illustrate good and evil e.g. anger/ gentleness / love /hate. Make masks (models?) of Ravanna and attach to this some of the dark words. Point out that the ten heads illustrate how difficult it can be to overcome evil. Make masks of Rama or of Hanuman and attach the good words to these.</li> <li>• Why might this story have special meaning for Hindus? What meaning might this story have for today? Understand that Hindus still remember this story through a festival called Divali.</li> <li>• If possible, show a video of how Hindus celebrate Divali. Encourage discussion and questioning by children. Learn how Hindus celebrate Divali in their home e.g. cleaning home, preparing special food, lighting divas, Divali cards, presents, new clothes, fireworks ( to chase away evil) rangoli patterns ( made to celebrate the beauty of Laksmi )</li> <li>• Divali is the start of a New Year for Hindus when the goddess Lakshmi is especially remembered. Hindus hope that she will visit heir homes at Divali. Lights are used along the garden paths and in the windows to remember how Rama and Sita were welcomed home and to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi to Hindu homes. Show murtis / pictures of Lakshimi and talk about why people might wish her to come to their homes (look at the gifts she is thought to bring).</li> <li>• Choose some typical Divali crafts to undertake eg cards, clay divas, mendhi and rangoli patterns.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Websites and resources:</b> Video “Water, Moon, Candle, Tree and Sword” for story of Rama and Sita. BBC Watch video “Festivals and Celebrations”</p>		

programme 3 for Divali. Everything you could possibly need for Divali is at <http://www.diwalifestival.org> If you are undertaking this topic around the time of Divali, why not look at the Neasden website for photographs of the festival being celebrated in London - <http://www.shreeswaminarayan.org.uk/> There's a mini-movie of the Ramayana at <http://www.hindukids.org/ramayana/index.html> and the story can also be found at <http://www.boloji.com/hinduism/ramayana/> and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramayana> All about rangoli patterns at <http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/art/rangoli.htm> (check out the links too)

