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Diwali

Diwali is the most important holiday in India. It is celebrated in October or November each year, depending on the lunar calendar. The festival runs for five days, but the main celebration happens on the third day. The holiday celebrates religious stories of victory of good over evil, which are a part of Hinduism. The followers of this religion are called Hindus. Hindus see light as a representation of knowledge and goodness. Lighting a lamp symbolizes destroying evil forces and protecting their souls from evil darkness. Diwali actually means, 'rows of light,' and this is exactly what the Hindus create. Hindus burn rows of small oil-filled clay lamps with cotton wicks, called **diyas**, during this celebration. The oil in the diyas represents negativity (such as hatred, anger, greed, and jealousy), and the wick represents their soul. The diya then symbolizes lighting their inner-self to remove these negative things. (The oil burns when the wick is lit, and therefore, the oil disappears.) By lighting diyas all over their home, especially in corners, the Hindus say there is no room for darkness to enter.

Special events and prayers happen over the five days of Diwali. On the first day, houses and businesses are cleaned and colorfully decorated to welcome Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity. On the morning of the second day, the women make **rangoli**, which are beautiful designs with colored powders and sand on the floor and in courtyards. The third day is the main day of the celebration. On this day, families and neighbors gather together to pray to the Goddess Lakshmi, exchange gifts and sweets, and feast together. They also light fireworks and sparklers in the streets. The fourth day is celebrated in different ways across India. In the western states of India, it is their New Year's Day, according to their calendar, so there are more celebrations. In other areas of India, people spend the day in prayer. On the last day of Diwali, brothers visit their sisters to be honored, fed, and prayed over for long lives.



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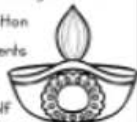
Diwali Traditions

Each component of the Diwali festival, especially the sacred rituals, which are called **rituals**, is rooted in Hindu beliefs. Women get together to make rangoli, which are beautiful designs with colored powders and sand on the floor and in courtyards. The third day is the main day of the celebration. On this day, families and neighbors gather together to pray to the Goddess Lakshmi, exchange gifts and sweets, and feast together. They also light fireworks and sparklers in the streets. The fourth day is celebrated in different ways across India. In the western states of India, it is their New Year's Day, according to their calendar, so there are more celebrations. In other areas of India, people spend the day in prayer. On the last day of Diwali, brothers visit their sisters to be honored, fed, and prayed over for long lives.



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DIWALI



Diwali Paired Texts Assessment

* Required

Email address *

Your email

Name: *

Your answer

Diwali

6. According to Diwali, on which day do women wake up and create colorful designs using sand and powder? *

1 point

- Day Five
- Day One
- Day Two
- Day Four

7. What do you learn in Diwali Traditions that was not shared in Diwali? *

1 point

- Women make their brothers' favorite foods.
- Brothers visit their sisters to be honored.
- Karanji is eaten regularly, not just during Diwali.
- Women feed their brothers on the fifth day of Diwali.

Imagine visiting India during Diwali. Describe what you would expect to see on the third day of the celebration. *

3 points

Support your answer to the question with evidence from both texts.

Your answer
