



A Row of Lights

Word meanings and the words of Diwali

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Use the book to answer each question. Write your answers on the lines.

1. The word Diwali is made of two smaller words. Fill in what each part means.

deep means _____ and **avali** means _____

So **Diwali** means _____

2. Match each word to what it means. Write the word on the line.

diya	rangoli	puja	Aarti	Bhai Duj
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A small oil lamp _____

A prayer, at home or in a temple _____

Colored patterns made on the floor _____

A song sung while holding a diya _____

Brother's Day, the fifth day _____

3. Pick two words from the box above. Use each one in a sentence of your own.

4. Draw your own diya in the box. Then color it in.



The 5 Days of Diwali

Reading for detail and putting events in order

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Diwali lasts five days. Each day has its own name and its own traditions. Use the book to fill in the missing parts of the chart.

Day	Name	What families do
1	Dhanteras	_____ _____
2	_____	Make rangoli on the floor. Hang string lights outside.
3	Diwali	_____ _____
4	Many call this the first day of the new year	_____
5	_____	Siblings and cousins share a meal and play games.

1. Which day would you look forward to the most? Explain why.

2. Diwali lasts 5 days. If the first day falls on a Monday, what day of the week is the last day?

Answer: _____

3. The book says Diwali happens on the night of the new moon, when the sky is darkest. Why would a festival of lights begin on the darkest night of the month?

Grades 2-4 | CCSS RI.3.1, RI.3.3 | Answer key at the end | From A Kids Book About Diwali



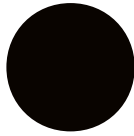
Light in the Dark

Moon phases and what a flame needs

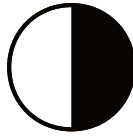
Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Answer questions 1 and 2 using the book and the pictures below.

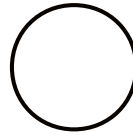
1. Diwali falls on the night of the new moon. Label these three moons: new moon, half moon, full moon.



A



B



C

A = _____ B = _____ C = _____

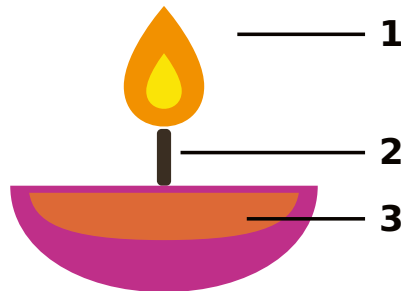
Which one gives the darkest night sky? _____

2. A diya is an oil lamp. It needs three things to keep burning. Use the word bank to label the picture.

oil (fuel)

wick

air (oxygen)



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Grades 3-6 | NGSS 1-ESS1-1, 5-PS1-4 | Continued on next page | From A Kids Book About Diwali



Light in the Dark

Page 2: predict, test and explain

3. Predict. You light one small candle in a bright classroom, and one small candle in a dark room. Which one is easier to see? Why do you think so?

4. Investigate. Shine a small flashlight across the room with the lights on. Then turn the lights off and shine it again. Write what you notice each time.

Room lights	What I noticed about the beam
ON	
OFF	

5. Was your prediction correct? What did you learn?

6. Diwali means a row of lights, not just one light. Why would a whole row of diyas be easier to see from far away than a single one?

7. The book says light is more powerful than darkness. Using what you saw in your test, explain why the darkest night might be the best night for a festival of lights.

Safety first. A real diya has an open flame. Never light one without a grownup helping you.



Diwali Around the World

Timelines, big numbers and map skills

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: You will need a world map or an atlas for question 4. Show your work where there is space.

1. The book says people have celebrated Diwali for about 2,500 years. If this year is 2026, about what year did people begin? Show your work.

Hint: your answer lands before year 1, so it is a BCE year.

2. Diwali is celebrated by more than one billion people. Write one billion in numerals.

3. Prince Ram was sent away for 14 years. If he was 25 when he left, how old was he when he came home to Ayodhya?

Answer: _____ years old

4. Use a world map. Write down the country where the Ramayana takes place, and the island country just south of it that people connect to the island of Lanka in the story.

(a) _____ (b) _____

5. Diwali lasts 5 days. If the first day falls on November 6, what is the date of the fifth day?

Answer: _____

6. Name three countries outside India that hold large public Diwali celebrations.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

7. Name another holiday, from any culture, where light or candles matter. What do the two have in common?

Grades 4-6 | CCSS 4.NBT.A | NCSS theme: Culture | From A Kids Book About Diwali



Feeling Seen

Seeing a story from more than one side

Name _____ Date _____

In the book, the author remembers being the only kid at her school who celebrated Diwali. Every year her mom sent special sweets in to share with her teachers and friends. But nobody knew what they were for, and nobody wished her a happy Diwali.

1. What was her mom hoping would happen? What actually happened instead?

What she hoped for	What actually happened
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Write a short paragraph from each person's point of view on that day. What is each one thinking? What are they not saying out loud?

The author, age 9

A classmate who has never heard of Diwali and says nothing

Grades 5-8 | CCSS RI.6.6, W.6.3 | CASEL: social awareness | Continued on next page



Feeling Seen

Page 2

3. The book says that when people feel seen, it means a great deal to them. Describe a time someone made you feel seen. What exactly did they do?

4. Name one thing you could do this year for a classmate who celebrates a holiday your school does not mark. Be specific. "Be nice" does not count. Write something a person could watch you do.

5. The book says you do not have to celebrate a holiday to wish someone a happy one. Do you agree? Is there a difference between celebrating something and respecting it?

6. Find one holiday that is not on your school calendar. Write three facts about it and one respectful question you would want to ask someone who celebrates it.

Holiday: _____
Fact 1: _____
Fact 2: _____
Fact 3: _____
My question: _____





Answer Key

Teacher copy for all five worksheets

A Row of Lights (grades 2-3)

1. deep = light. avari = row. Diwali = a row of lights.
2. A small oil lamp: diya. A prayer: puja. Colored patterns on the floor: rangoli. A song sung while holding a diya: Aarti. Brother's Day: Bhai Duj.
- 3 and 4. Answers will vary. For question 3, look for the word used with the right meaning rather than just copied.

The 5 Days of Diwali (grades 2-4)

Day	Name	What families do
1	Dhanteras	Clean the house. Buy something new, such as gold or jewelry. Make snacks and sweets.
2	Choti Diwali	Make rangoli. Hang string lights.
3	Diwali	Wear your finest clothes. Do a puja at home or in a temple. Sing Aarti holding a diya. Put a diya in every room. Get blessings from elders, then gifts.
4	New Year	Be grateful. Help people who have less.
5	Bhai Duj	Siblings and cousins share a meal and play games.

Q2. Friday. Q1 and Q3. Answers will vary. Strong answers for Q3 connect darkness to how well a light shows up.



Light in the Dark (grades 3-6)

1. A is the new moon. B is the half moon. C is the full moon. The new moon (A) gives the darkest night.
2. 1 is air (oxygen). 2 is the wick. 3 is the oil (fuel).
3. The candle in the dark room. Accept any reasoning about contrast. The eye compares a light to what is around it, so the same flame stands out more when there is less other light.
- 4 and 5. Students should see that the beam is much easier to see with the lights off. Look for them confirming or correcting their own prediction.
6. More lamps make more light and cover more distance, so a row can be seen from farther away. In the story, the rows of diyas were lit so travelers could find their way.
7. Answers will vary. Strong answers connect what they saw to what the festival means. The darkest night is chosen because that is when a small light matters most.



Diwali Around the World (grades 4-6)

1. 2026 minus 2,500 is about 474 BCE, or roughly 500 BCE. If a student answers negative 474, that is a good moment to talk about why there is no year zero.
2. 1,000,000,000. 3. $25 + 14 = 39$ years old. 4. (a) India (b) Sri Lanka.
5. November 10. A common mistake is to add 5 and answer November 11. Day 1 is the 6th, so only four days get added.
6. Answers will vary. Countries often named include Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Fiji, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States and Australia.
7. Answers will vary. Look for a real common thread, such as light in a dark season, hope, or guiding someone home, rather than just "they both have candles."



Feeling Seen (grades 5-8)

1. She hoped that sharing something from her culture would help classmates understand it, and that she would be included. What happened is that people took the sweets but nobody understood what they were for and nobody said anything, so she felt invisible instead of celebrated.
2. Answers will vary. In a strong answer the classmate is not written as a villain. The more honest reading is that they did not know what to say. Push students past "they were mean."
4. Look for actions someone could observe: learning to say a classmate's name correctly, asking what a holiday means to them, saying happy Diwali on the day, or suggesting the school calendar include it. Redirect anything that is a feeling rather than an action.
6. Check that the question is genuinely open and respectful.

Before you teach this one. Some students in your room will recognize the author's experience right away. Give quiet think time and let volunteers speak, rather than calling on the student you assume celebrates. The point of the book is that understanding a holiday should not be one child's job.