

DIWALI

<http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/10/diwali.html>

CONTENTS:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Listening / Reading Gap Fill	5
Choose the Correct Word	6
Multiple Choice	7
Spelling	8
Put the Text Back Together	9
Scrambled Sentences	10
Discussion	11
Student Survey	12
Writing	13
Homework	14

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

Diwali is the Hindu New Year festival and the biggest occasion in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. It is called the festival of lights because it celebrates the victory of good (light) over evil (darkness). The name of the festival comes from the Sanskrit word *dipavali*, which means row of lights. Lights play an important role in Diwali. Throughout the five-day celebration, Hindus place special, decorative lights in their temples and homes. There are also lots of colourful fireworks displays. In India people make small lamps and try to float them across the Ganges river. It brings good luck if the lamp manages to get all the way across. Children love it because of the lights and because they get sweets from adults.

There are two legends of Diwali in which Hindu gods overcome evil. In one, Lord Krishna killed the evil demon king of Pragjyotishpur to set free 16,000 daughters of the gods. The second legend has the Hindu king Rama destroying Ravana, the wicked ten-armed, ten-headed king of Sri Lanka. Ravana kidnapped Rama's wife for 14 years. Many Hindus love these mythical stories. The Times of India newspaper, however, summed up the modern meaning of Diwali: "Regardless of the mythological explanation...what the festival of lights really stands for today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a...celebration of the simple - and some not so simple - joys of life."

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. the biggest occasion | a. from the Sanskrit |
| 2. festival of | b. across |
| 3. The name of the festival comes | c. lights |
| 4. play an important | d. in the Hindu calendar |
| 5. colourful fireworks | e. role |
| 6. get all the way | f. displays |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Hindu gods overcome | a. stories |
| 2. the wicked ten-armed, | b. life |
| 3. Hindus love these mythical | c. up the modern meaning |
| 4. summed | d. evil |
| 5. a renewed commitment | e. ten-headed king |
| 6. joys of | f. to friendship |

LISTENING GAP FILL

Diwali is the Hindu New Year festival and _____ in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. It is called the festival of lights because _____ of good (light) over evil (darkness). The name of the festival comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, _____ lights. Lights play an important role in Diwali. Throughout the five-day celebration, Hindus place special, _____ their temples and homes. There are also lots of colourful fireworks displays. In India people make small lamps and _____ across the Ganges river. It brings good luck if the lamp manages to get all the way across. Children love _____ lights and because they get sweets from adults.

There are two legends of Diwali in which Hindu _____. In one, Lord Krishna _____ king of Pragjyotishpur to set free 16,000 daughters of the gods. The second legend has the Hindu king Rama destroying Ravana, the _____, ten-headed king of Sri Lanka. Ravana kidnapped Rama's wife for 14 years. Many Hindus _____ stories. The Times of India newspaper, however, summed up the modern meaning of Diwali: "Regardless of the mythological explanation...what the festival of lights _____ today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a...celebration of the simple - and some not so _____."

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

Diwali is the Hindu New Year festival and the biggest _____ in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. It is called the festival of lights because it celebrates the _____ of good (light) over evil (darkness). The name of the festival _____ from the Sanskrit word dipavali, which means _____ of lights. Lights play an important role in Diwali. Throughout the five-day celebration, Hindus place special, _____ lights in their temples and homes. There are also lots of colourful fireworks displays. In India people make small lamps and try to _____ them across the Ganges river. It brings good luck if the lamp _____ to get all the way across. Children love it because of the lights and because they get sweets from _____.

decorative

adults

victory

float

comes

occasion

manages

row

There are two _____ of Diwali in which Hindu gods overcome evil. In one, Lord Krishna killed the _____ demon king of Pragjyotishpur to set free 16,000 daughters of the gods. The second legend has the Hindu king Rama destroying Ravana, the wicked ten-_____, ten-headed king of Sri Lanka. Ravana kidnapped Rama's wife for 14 years. Many Hindus _____ these mythical stories. The Times of India newspaper, however, _____ up the modern meaning of Diwali: "Regardless of the mythological explanation...what the festival of lights really _____ for today is a reaffirmation of _____, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a...celebration of the simple - and some not so _____ - joys of life."

hope

evil

summed

love

legends

simple

stands

armed

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

Diwali is the Hindu New Year festival and the biggest *occasionally / occasion* in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. It is called the festival of lights because *they / it* celebrates the victory of good (light) *over / under* evil (darkness). The name of the festival comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, which means row of lights. Lights *play / playing* an important role in Diwali. Throughout the five-day celebration, Hindus place *specially / special*, decorative lights in their temples and homes. There are also lots of colourful fireworks displays. In India people make small *lumps / lamps* and try to float them across the Ganges river. It brings good luck if the lamp manages to get all the way *cross / across*. Children *love / loving* it because of the lights and because they get sweets from adults.

There are two legends of Diwali in *what / which* Hindu gods overcome evil. In one, Lord Krishna killed the evil demon king of Pragjyotishpur to set *freedom / free* 16,000 daughters of the gods. The second legend has the Hindu king Rama destroying Ravana, the *wicked / wicked* ten-armed, ten-headed king of Sri Lanka. Ravana kidnapped Rama's wife for 14 years. Many Hindus love these mythical *story / stories*. The Times of India newspaper, however, summed up the modern *mean / meaning* of Diwali: "Regardless of the mythological explanation...what the festival of lights *really / real* stands for today is a reaffirmation of hope, a *renewed / renewal* commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a...celebration of the simple - and some *not / no* so simple - joys of life."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Diwali is the Hindu New Year festival and the biggest (1) _____ in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. It is called the festival of lights because it celebrates the victory of good (light) (2) _____ evil (darkness). The name of the festival comes from the Sanskrit word dipavali, which (3) _____ row of lights. Lights play an important role in Diwali. Throughout the five-day celebration, Hindus place special, decorative lights in their temples and homes. There are also (4) _____ of colourful fireworks displays. In India people make small lamps and try to (5) _____ them across the Ganges river. It brings good luck if the lamp manages to get all the way across. Children love it because of the lights and because they get sweets from (6) _____.

There are two legends of Diwali in which Hindu gods overcome (7) _____. In one, Lord Krishna killed the evil demon king of Pragjyotishpur to set (8) _____ 16,000 daughters of the gods. The second legend has the Hindu king Rama destroying Ravana, the wicked ten-(9) _____, ten-headed king of Sri Lanka. Ravana kidnapped Rama's wife for 14 years. Many Hindus love these mythical stories. The Times of India newspaper, however, (10) _____ up the modern meaning of Diwali: "Regardless of the mythological explanation...what the festival of lights really stands (11) _____ today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and goodwill, and a...celebration of the simple - and some not so simple - (12) _____ of life."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | (a) occasion | (b) occasions | (c) occasioned | (d) occasionally |
| 2. | (a) under | (b) over | (c) below | (d) before |
| 3. | (a) meaning | (b) meanie | (c) meanings | (d) means |
| 4. | (a) lot | (b) slots | (c) lots | (d) load |
| 5. | (a) float | (b) flotation | (c) floated | (d) floating |
| 6. | (a) adulthood | (b) adults | (c) adulterer | (d) adultery |
| 7. | (a) alive | (b) lively | (c) evil | (d) devil |
| 8. | (a) freedom | (b) frees | (c) freer | (d) free |
| 9. | (a) army | (b) armed | (c) arms | (d) armed |
| 10. | (a) sums | (b) summed | (c) sum | (d) summing |
| 11. | (a) for | (b) up | (c) down | (d) in |
| 12. | (a) joy | (b) joyous | (c) joys | (d) joyful |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. the biggest nacoiosc
2. the falseity of lights
3. it celebrates the vcrioyt
4. colourful fireworks sdisaylp
5. tflao them across the Ganges
6. they get sweets from dsautl

Paragraph 2

7. nedlegs of Diwali
8. the dkcwie ten-armed, ten-headed king
9. mlacthyi stories
10. the rmdoen meaning of Diwali
11. really sndtsa for
12. friendship and oigdollw

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () There are two legends of Diwali in which Hindu gods overcome evil. In one, Lord Krishna killed the evil
- () for today is a reaffirmation of hope, a renewed commitment to friendship and
- () day celebration, Hindus place special, decorative lights in their temples and homes. There are also lots of colourful
- () fireworks displays. In India people make small lamps and try to float them across the Ganges river. It brings
- (**1**) Diwali is the Hindu New Year festival and the biggest occasion in the Hindu calendar. It is also celebrated by Sikhs and Jains. It is
- () from the Sanskrit word dipavali, which means row of lights. Lights play an important role in Diwali. Throughout the five-
- () of the lights and because they get sweets from adults.
- () meaning of Diwali: "Regardless of the mythological explanation...what the festival of lights really stands
- () demon king of Pragjyotishpur to set free 16,000 daughters of the gods. The second legend has the Hindu king Rama
- () destroying Ravana, the wicked ten-armed, ten-headed king of Sri Lanka. Ravana kidnapped Rama's wife for 14
- () called the festival of lights because it celebrates the victory of good (light) over evil (darkness). The name of the festival comes
- () goodwill, and a...celebration of the simple - and some not so simple - joys of life."
- () good luck if the lamp manages to get all the way across. Children love it because
- () years. Many Hindus love these mythical stories. The Times of India newspaper, however, summed up the modern

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. calendar Hindu the in occasion biggest The.

2. festival the The the from of comes Sanskrit name.

3. lights Place in special their , temples decorative.

4. make and float People lamps to small try them.

5. lights the of because it love Children.

6. Hindu evil of which overcome Legends in gods Diwali.

7. the Set , of 16 daughters gods free 000.

8. Rama's kidnapped Ravana years 14 for wife.

9. What really the stands festival for of lights.

10. friendship commitment A to renewed.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © www.ESL Holiday Lessons.com

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © www.ESL Holiday Lessons.com

THE DIWALI SURVEY

Write five questions about Diwali in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITING

Write about Diwali for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about Diwali. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about Diwali. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about Diwali. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.