# DIWALI

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

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.
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 __________.

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.”
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 Pragjayotishpur 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) summied (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
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. ____________________________________________________________

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

1. ____________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________________________
**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.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2</th>
<th>STUDENT 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Q.1.</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.2.</td>
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<td>Q.3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Q.5.</td>
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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.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
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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.