

Teaching Resources - Diwali

We have collected together a number of resources to explore the topic of Diwali. The aim of this Teaching Resource booklet is to support teachers in creating engaging and interactive lessons for KS2 and KS3 to respond to the requirements of the National Curriculum and the principles dictated by the Ofsted Framework 2019.

National Curriculum and Ofsted Framework

Cultural capital

Celebrating the cultures, languages and traditions that children and their families bring helping pupils to understand the cultural background of their community's diversity to build the essential knowledge they will need to be educated citizens.

The wider context for RE

The UK has a rich heritage of culture and diversity. This is continuing today in an era of globalisation and an increasingly interdependent world. Religion and belief for many people forms a crucial part of their culture and identity.

What is Diwali?

Diwali is a Hindi festival that takes place every year in October or November and lasts for 5 days.

The word 'Diwali' means row of lights.

People decorate their houses, shops and other public places to encourage the Goddess of luck, Lakshmi, to visit and bring blessings and wealth in the new year.

Different regions celebrate different stories of Diwali. In South Asia they tell the story of Rama and Sita returning to Ayodhya after having been exiled for many years. The row of lights were lit by the town's people to help them find the way home.

Find out more about The Story of Rama and Sita in this Learning pack.

Videos

Diwali

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-my-life-my-religion-hinduism-diwali-festival-of-light/z668qp3>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrrW3rO51ak>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39/articles/zjpp92p>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z787tfr>

The Story of Rama and Sita

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06ptdgh>

Articles

News papers in the UK

- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/festivals-and-events/when-diwali-2019-what-how-celebrate-uk-events/>
- <https://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/1193819/diwali-2019-when-is-diwali-celebrated-in-UK-how-is-diwali-celebrated>
- <https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/uk-now/read-uk/diwali>
- <https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/london-life/happy-diwali-2019-uk-london-when-what-festival-of-lights-hindu-sikh-jain-a4270926.html>
- <https://inews.co.uk/culture/diwali-2019-when-date-festival-meaning-story-uk-events-celebration-349782>

Diwali facts

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z4rkxnb/revision/1>
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/religion/diwali.htm>

Diwali around the world

Below we link you to a range of articles and videos about Diwali's celebration all around the world.

India

<https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/00000144-0a35-d3cb-a96c-7b3d59ac0000>

Britain

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15451833>

America

<https://share.america.gov/americans-celebrate-hindu-festival-diwali/>

Australia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42POxV3cXql>

Other Learning Resources

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/5Rff0jd2nVdmvDysp5cmwQ2/diwali-the-festival-of-light>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/facts-about-diwali/>

How to make Rangoli Patterns

- <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/rangoli>

How to make Diya Lamps

- <https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/rangoli>

Objects in the Victoria and Albert Museum

- https://www.vam.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/259918/Guide-to-the-India-Museum-and-Indian-Objects.pdf
- <https://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/south-asia>

Kala the Arts Resources

Kala The Arts is a leading dance organisation that specialises in the Odissi South Asian dance form. Based in Hampshire and operating since 1999, the organisation was founded by Sushmita Pati, an international Odissi artist, choreographer and Artistic Director of Kala The Arts.

For more than decade Kala the Arts have been working with local, national and international artists to create innovative artistically high quality South Asian dance and music. They are an established Arts in Education charity who work with professional artists to provide a powerhouse of knowledge and expertise in their educational workshops, residencies and classes. Kala The Arts works with local partners to create a programme of work that promotes diversity, integration and encourages community cohesion.

History of Odissi resources from Kala the Arts:

- <http://odissijourney.co.uk/>
- <http://www.kalathearts.co.uk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/395097340654164/videos/516845465677731>

Diwali Music

- https://soundcloud.com/reading_museum/diwali/s-oQFz69p5pW4