



Teacher Resource

Diwali Festival

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Describe Diwali in one word.
2. Complete the following sentence. Diwali is the Festival of _____.
3. Who celebrates Diwali?
4. Why are candles a big part of Diwali?
5. What did you learn watching the Diwali story?

Activity: See, Think and Wonder

After watching the BTN Diwali Festival story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What do you WONDER about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?

Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN Diwali Festival story as a class. Record what students know and would like to know on the KWHL chart below. Use the following questions to help guide discussion:

- What is Diwali?
- When is Diwali?
- Who celebrates Diwali?
- How is it celebrated?
- What Diwali celebrations do you know about? What might you see?
- Have you ever taken part in Diwali celebrations? Explain which ones.



EPISODE 30

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KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about Diwali, including customs, traditions and celebrations.

CURRICULUM

HASS – Year 3

Celebrations and commemorations in places around the world (for example, Chinese New Year in countries of the Asia region, Bastille Day in France, Independence Day in the USA), including those that are observed in Australia (for example, Christmas Day, Diwali, Easter, Hanukkah, the Moon Festival and Ramadan).

Civics & Citizenship – Year 3

Why people participate within communities and how students can actively participate and contribute.

HASS – Year 3

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

Civics & Citizenship – Year 4

The different cultural, religious and/or social groups to which they and others in the community belong.

HASS – Year 5-6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

HASS – Year 6

The world's cultural diversity, including that of its indigenous peoples.

HASS – Year 7

The significant beliefs, values and practices of Indian or Chinese society, with a particular emphasis on ONE of the following areas: everyday life, warfare, or death and funerary customs.

Activity: KWLH

The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

What do I <u>k</u> now?	What do I <u>w</u> ant to know?	What have I <u>l</u> earnt?	<u>H</u> ow will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

- How are the five days of Diwali celebrated? Create a schedule outlining the 5-day event.
- Why is Diwali on a different date each year? Investigate further and document your findings.
- Who observes Diwali?
- Where does the word Diwali come from and what does it mean? Explore the origins of the word Diwali and the history of the festival.
- What is a rangoli? What are other important symbols are used during Diwali?
- How can you wish your friend a happy Diwali? Visit this [ABC article](#) to learn more.

Activity – Choose a project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Festival of light

What does Diwali mean? Discuss as a class. Design and make a paper lantern that you can light up with battery operated lights to display in your class.

Teach others

Make a brochure about Diwali that is informative and eye-catching. Include a list of celebrations that will be happening in your community. Alternatively, create a picture book that teaches children about Diwali.

Diwali rangoli patterns

Rangoli patterns are bright, geometric designs used during Diwali. They are thought to bring good luck and to welcome guests. Find a template and make your own rangoli.

Firework design

For Diwali, the lighting of fireworks celebrates the triumph of light over darkness. Design your own Diwali fireworks display and explain what your designs symbolise.

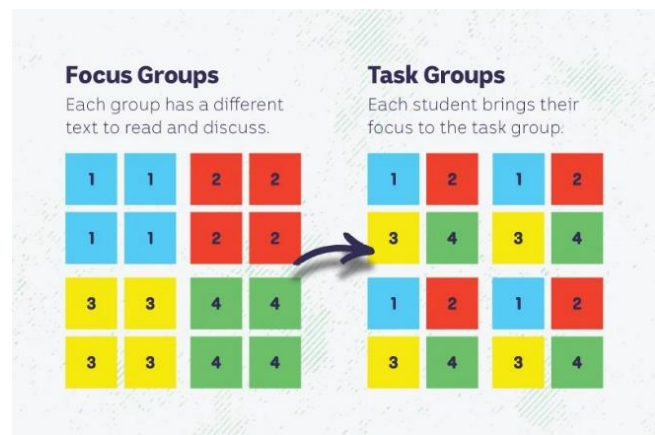
Activity: Celebrations around the world

Celebrate the diversity in your classroom. Students will share with the class which celebrations are important to them and research different celebrations around the world.

- Investigate how different countries around the world celebrate. How are their celebrations similar or different? Choose one country to research in depth and investigate the origin and significance of their celebrations. Design and make a poster, using symbols, words and images, to mark the celebration and display in the classroom.
- Learn about where students in your class come from and mark on a world map. Describe some of the special occasions that your family celebrate throughout the year, and mark on your classroom calendar. What do these special occasions have in common? How are they different? Use a Venn diagram to record your responses.
- Make a list of special days and weeks that are celebrated in Australia and around the world. For example, Lunar New Year, Diwali, Holi Festival, Yom Kippur, Vaisakhi, Lent, Vesak, and Eid al-Fitr. Mark on your classroom calendar.
- Choose one country to research in depth and investigate the origin and significance of their celebrations. Design and make a poster, using symbols, words and images, to mark the celebration and display in the classroom.

Activity – Jigsaw learning

In this activity students will work cooperatively to learn more about cultural and religious celebrations observed in Australia and around the world. Each group will become experts and then share what they have learnt with other students.



1. Form Groups

Divide the class into 4 x Focus Groups. Each Focus Group will be assigned a different cultural celebration to investigate and become experts. Below is a list of celebrations to choose from:

- Diwali
- Eid al-Fitr
- Holi
- Lent
- Lunar New Year
- Vesak

Each group will need to decide how they will collect and communicate the information they find during their research.

2. Research

Each Focus Group will respond to the following questions to become experts:

- Write a summary on the celebration, which answers the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?
- What are the origins of the celebration?
- What are some of the customs and traditions of the celebration?
- Illustrate an aspect of the celebration.
- Think of an interesting way to teach other students about this celebration.

3. Share

Mix the Focus Groups to form Task Groups (Task Groups include one student from each of the Focus Groups) to share the information they have collected. Students will share the information they have collected and learn from one another.

4. Reflect

Students will reflect on the activity by responding to one or more of the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about this investigation?
- What did you find surprising?

Useful Websites

- [What is Diwali?](#) – BTN Newsbreak
- [When is Diwali and how are the five days of the Festival of Lights celebrated?](#) – ABC News
- [Diwali Festival of Lights \(YouTube\)](#) – National Geographic
- [Diwali: What is it?](#) – BBC Newsround
- [Religious Celebrations Special](#) – BTN