

DIWALI

A family festival

Diwali is an important time in the Hindu calendar. Raj, 14, from Mumbai, celebrates it every year with his family in India.

1

Diwali is a family festival. It's called the 'Festival of Lights'. It's a celebration of the victory of 'good' over 'bad' with special lights or 'diyas', and candles. The family is important in traditional Diwali activities.

2

We usually celebrate Diwali in October or November at the start of the Hindu New Year. The festival is five days of celebrations.

3

It's an international festival, but India's got a bigger Hindu population than any other country, so it's very important there. Other countries with Hindus also celebrate it, for example, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore and parts of Europe.

4

It's important for people and their houses to be clean. We also wear more colourful clothes than usual: yellow, red and green. Diwali is a festival of colour! Family is always important to Hindus, but during Diwali it's even more important. People celebrate with their families at home and they eat special meals. It's a wonderful time!



FACT! Hindus celebrate a lot of festivals. About 40 every year!

Reading An online interview

1 Look at the picture. Where is Raj from?

2 Read the interview. What is Diwali?

3  1.16 Complete the text with the questions.

- a) Where is it? c) What's important in Diwali?
b) When is it? d) What is Diwali?

4 Read the text again. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Diwali is a celebration of the family / good.
- 2 'Diyas' are special lights / candles.
- 3 People celebrate for two months / five days during Diwali.
- 4 People all over the world / Only Indian people celebrate Diwali.
- 5 Colourful clothes / houses are very important at Diwali time.

6 Complete the sentences with the adjectives from Exercise 5.

- 1 This is a ... book – I love it!
- 2 My room is all white. I want it to be more

7 Change the nouns into adjectives by adding **-ful**.

beauty use

Your turn

8 Write notes about a festival in your country. Use these headings:

- Activities
- Clothes
- Food
- Time of year

9 Tell your partner about your festival.

The Barranquilla Carnival is a folk festival in my country. ...

Explore adjective suffixes **-ful**

5 Find two adjectives in the text which end in **-ful**.