

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!



Look at the picture. Where is Raj from?

Read the interview. What is Diwali?



1.16 Complete the text with the questions.

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

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.