



# Diwali

# 6

## ✔ Lesson Objectives

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### Core Content Objectives

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Students will be able to do the following:

- ✓ Locate Asia and India on a map or globe
- ✓ Identify Hinduism as a major religion originating in Asia
- ✓ Identify Diwali as an important holiday in Hinduism

### Language Arts Objectives

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The following language arts objectives are addressed in this lesson. Objectives aligning with the Common Core State Standards are noted with the corresponding standard in parentheses. Refer to the Alignment Chart for additional standards addressed in all lessons in this domain.

Students will be able to do the following:

- ✓ Identify that the main topic of the read-aloud is about Diwali (RI.2.2)
- ✓ Describe the connection between the story of Prince Rama (Vishnu) and the beginning of Diwali (RI.2.3)
- ✓ Identify that the main purpose of the read-aloud is to explain and describe the Hindu holiday, Diwali (RI.2.6)
- ✓ Compare and contrast information presented in the read-aloud “Diwali” to the information presented in a trade book about Diwali (RI.2.9)
- ✓ Tell about a holiday celebrated by their family (SL.2.4)
- ✓ Recount an experience of their sibling(s) doing something kind or special for them (SL.2.4)
- ✓ Add drawings to accompany their explanation of an experience of their sibling(s) doing something kind or special for them (SL.2.5)
- ✓ Identify real-life connections between words—*Diwali*, *festival*, *prosperity*, and *custom*—and their use (L.2.5a)

## Core Vocabulary

**archer, n.** Someone who shoots with a bow and arrow

*Example:* In fiction, Robin Hood is a well-known archer who has incredible aim.

*Variation(s):* archers

**custom, n.** A habit; something that you do frequently

*Example:* It was Taylor's custom to read a book before she went to sleep each night.

*Variation(s):* customs

**Diwali, n.** A Hindu festival that celebrates the goodness in other people

*Example:* Arushi and her family light lamps each year on Diwali.

*Variation(s):* none

**prosperity, n.** The state of being successful or having good fortune

*Example:* People wish for prosperity during the new year.


*Variation(s):* prosperities

Vocabulary Chart for Diwali			
Core Vocabulary words are in <b>bold</b> . Multiple Meaning Word Activity word is <u>underlined</u> . Vocabulary Instructional Activity words have an asterisk (*). Suggested words to pre-teach are in <i>italics</i> .			
Type of Words	Tier 3 Domain-Specific Words	Tier 2 General Academic Words	Tier 1 Everyday-Speech Words
<b>Understanding</b>	<b>archer</b> <b>Diwali</b> Hindus Lakshmi Ravana Vishnu warrior	cruelty <i>festival</i> illuminate <b>prosperity</b> symbolizes	battle candle family goodness lamps relatives sweets
<b>Multiple Meaning</b>		<b>custom*</b> legend	flowers light
<b>Phrases</b>	diya candles evil demon Festival of Lights Prince Rama	first began . . . is now . . . (light/good) over (darkness/evil)	lighting candles/ lamps
<b>Cognates</b>	<b>arquero(a)</b> hindú	crueidad festival iluminar <b>prosperidad</b> simbolizar <b>costumbre*</b>	batalla familia flores lámpara

## Image Sequence

This is the order in which Flip Book images will be shown for this read-aloud. It uses the same sequence as the *Tell It Again! Read-Aloud Anthology*.

1. 6A-1: Hindu woman
2. 6A-2: Vishnu
3. 6A-3: Prince Rama victorious, people celebrating
4. 6A-4: Child holding a light
5. 6A-5: Lakshmi
6. 6A-6: Diwali celebration

<i>At a Glance</i>	<b>Exercise</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b><i>Introducing the Read-Aloud</i></b>	<b>What Have We Learned?</b>	Response Card 2; world map	15
	<b>Introducing Diwali</b>		
	<b>Vocabulary Preview: Diwali/ Festival; Prosperity</b>		
	<b>Purpose for Listening</b>	Response Card 2	
<b><i>Presenting the Read-Aloud</i></b>	<b>Diwali</b>		15
<b><i>Discussing the Read-Aloud</i></b>	<b>Comprehension Questions</b>		10
	<b>Word Work: Custom</b>		
 <b>Complete Remainder of the Lesson Later in the Day</b>			
<b><i>Extensions</i></b>	<b>Bhai Dooj: Celebrating Sibling Love</b>	drawing paper, drawing tools	20
	<b>Domain-Related Trade Book</b>		

### ***Advance Preparation***

Bring in a trade book related to Diwali to read aloud to the class.



# Diwali

6<sub>A</sub>

## Introducing the Read-Aloud

15 minutes

### What Have We Learned

- Have students use Response Card 2 to review what they have learned about Hinduism and Hindu gods. You may also wish to show images 3A-2–3A-8 as you ask students questions about Hinduism, like the following:
  - Where did Hinduism begin?
  - India [Invite a student to point to India on a world map.]
  - Which river is sacred to the Hindus?
  - Ganges River
  - How many gods does Hinduism have?
  - millions
  - Can you name the three most important gods?
  - Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva
  - What are some things that Hindus believe?
  - dharma, reincarnation



### Introducing Diwali

#### ← Show image 6A-6: Diwali celebration

- Tell students that today's read-aloud is about a special Hindu holiday called Diwali (di-WAH-lee).
- Say to students, "Look at this picture about how Diwali is celebrated today. Tell your partner some things you might hear about regarding Diwali today." Allow thirty seconds for students to talk. Call on three partner pairs to share.
- Tell students that Diwali is a Hindu holiday. Ask students if they can think of other holidays associated with a religion.

**Note:** Students who participated in the *Early World Civilizations* domain in Grade 1 learned about the holidays associated with Judaism—Passover; Christianity—Easter, Christmas; Islam—Ramadan.

## Vocabulary Preview

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### *Diwali/Festival*

1. Today you will hear that *Diwali* is known as the “*Festival of Lights*.”
2. Say the word *Diwali* with me three times.  
Say the word *festival* with me three times.
3. Diwali is a Hindu holiday celebrated every year around October or November. Diwali lasts for five days and is celebrated by Indians all over the world, not just Hindus. Diwali uses lights to symbolize the goodness in yourself and other people.  
A festival is a special time or event when people get together to celebrate something, usually with a lot of activity and food.
4. Arushi and her family light lamps each year on Diwali.  
Diwali is a five-day festival where families come together to celebrate the goodness in each other.
5. Have you been to a festival before? What kind of festival was it? What was the festival like? [Students may have attended music, art, or school festivals. If no student answers, you may wish to tell about your own experience at a festival.]

### *Prosperity*

1. In today’s read-aloud you will hear about another Hindu god—the goddess of wealth and *prosperity*.
2. Say the word *prosperity* with me three times.
3. *Prosperity* means being successful or having good fortune. Prosperity is usually related to having money and luck.
4. Hindus ask the goddesses for prosperity.  
If you want to have prosperity, you must try your best in everything you do.
5. Does prosperity seem like a positive, or good, word to you? Why or why not?

## Purpose for Listening

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Ask students what they think they are going to learn from this read-aloud. Confirm that the main topic of this read-aloud is on the Hindu holiday, Diwali. Have students look at the Hindu gods on Response Card 2. Tell them that this read-aloud will tell about how one of these gods saved some Hindus from ancient India from an evil demon. Have students guess which god they think it might be. [Take a quick tally.]

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- ✓ Identify Diwali as an important holiday in Hinduism



## Diwali

### ← Show image 6A-1: Hindu woman

What is this woman holding in her hands?

[Pause for student responses. Explain that this is a special kind of candle called a diya (DEE-yah).]

This woman is holding diya candles for **Diwali** (di-WAH-lee). **Diwali** is one of the many festivals—or special events and celebrations—Hindus in India celebrate every year. In fact, **Diwali** is the most famous of all Indian festivals and is now celebrated by Indians worldwide, not just Hindus.

**Diwali** means “Festival of Lights.” During **Diwali** many, many lights illuminate—or shine—through windows, doorways, walls, gateposts, and streets. Each light symbolizes something special. Listen to find out what each light means. But first let’s find out how **Diwali** came to be—or started.

An ancient Indian legend—or story from long, long ago that many people believe—tells us how **Diwali** first began many, many years ago. This legend begins with a Hindu god who came to Earth to protect the people from and fight against an evil demon.

[Ask students to guess which Hindu god that might be.]



### ← Show image 6A-2: Vishnu

This is Vishnu. Do you remember what the Hindu god Vishnu does?

[Pause for student responses.]

Vishnu is the protector of the whole world. So when an evil demon—a bad person—named Ravana was bothering the world, who came to earth to save Earth’s people from Ravana’s cruelty. Who came to save them from Ravana’s meanness and destruction?

[Pause for student responses.]

Vishnu came to Earth as a human to save the people from Ravana.



← **Show image 6A-3: Prince Rama victorious, people celebrating**

When Vishnu came to Earth, he was called Prince Rama. Prince Rama was intelligent and kind. He was also an especially good **archer**—he was extremely good at using a bow and arrow. Prince Rama grew up to be a noble warrior—and honorable fighter.

One day, Vishnu—who was Prince Rama—decided it was time to leave his home and holy city to fight Ravana, the evil demon. He fought a long and difficult battle. He fought Ravana for fourteen years! Finally, after fourteen years, Prince Rama defeated Ravana and returned home to become the city’s new king.

To celebrate his return, the people of the holy city did something special. They lit rows of small, clay, oil-burning lamps called **diyas** and placed these lamps in their windows, by their doors, and in the rivers and streams. The light of each lamp’s flame was a symbol of good returning after years of darkness, or evil.

[Ask, “What is each light a symbol of?”]

- Each light is a symbol of good.

Every year after that, Hindus in the holy city repeated the **custom** of lighting lamps and honoring the strength and goodness of Rama. The Hindus in the holy city did this year after year until this **custom** spread to other parts of India, and now lighting lamps for **Diwali** is a **custom** to many Indians all over the world.

[Define *custom* as something that is done as a tradition, year after year, over and over again.]



← **Show image 6A-4: Child holding a light**

Today, **Diwali** is the most famous of all Indian festivals.

**Diwali**, first begun by the Hindus in ancient India, is now celebrated by many Indians worldwide, not just Hindus. **Diwali**—the Festival of Lights—lasts for five days. The timing of the festival falls on different days every year, but it is always in either October or November.

During **Diwali**, people celebrate the goodness in one another for five days. During the time of **Diwali**, lights are everywhere! Lamps and candles illuminate windows and doorways. Walls and gateposts are strewn with tiny lights. Strings of electric lights stretch for miles throughout the cities and the countryside.



Each light stands for the good inside the person who lit it, symbolizing light over darkness—good over evil. **Diwali** is a celebration of the goodness in yourselves and others.



← **Show image 6A-5: Lakshmi**

During **Diwali**, Lakshmi (LUHKSH-mee), the Hindu goddess of wealth and **prosperity**, is also welcomed into the homes of the Hindu people. Hindus believe that Lakshmi can bring them success, good fortune, and luck. Weeks before the festival begins, Hindu families clean their homes so that their homes would be pleasing to Lakshmi's spirit when she visits them. They also decorate their homes and businesses with flowers to please Lakshmi. They bow in front of statues of Lakshmi, thanking her and praying for a prosperous—and successful—year ahead.



← **Show image 6A-6: Diwali celebration**

**Diwali** is a time of new beginnings, much like a New Year's celebration. **Diwali** is celebrated differently in different parts of India. **Customs**—and what people do during this time—are different, but nearly everywhere people delight in spending these five days with family and friends. They send cards to relatives and give gifts to one another. They buy new clothes for **Diwali** activities. They play games, sing songs, say special prayers, and gather to share big meals. Dried fruits, nuts, and lots of sweets fill their homes. Firecrackers split the air on most nights, lighting up the sky even more during this magical Festival of Lights.

### Comprehension Questions

If students have difficulty responding to questions, reread pertinent lines of the read-aloud and/or refer to specific images. Ask students to answer in complete sentences by having them restate the question in their responses. Model answers using complete sentences as necessary.

1. *Literal* What is the main topic of this read-aloud?

- The main topic of this read-aloud is about Diwali.

What does Diwali mean?

- *Diwali* means “Festival of Lights.”

2. *Literal* Who celebrates this holiday?

- Hindus and Indians all over the world celebrate this holiday.

3. *Inferential* How long does Diwali last? What do people do during Diwali?

- Diwali lasts for five days. During Diwali people light lamps and candles, spend time with family and friends, send cards to relatives, wear new clothes, eat sweets, give gifts to one another, etc.

4. *Inferential* Why do you think Diwali is called the Festival of Lights? What do the lights symbolize?

- Diwali is called the Festival of Lights because there are many, many lights everywhere. The lights symbolize the goodness in yourself and others that shines over darkness and evil.

5. *Literal* According to Indian legend about the beginning of Diwali, which Hindu god came to Earth to protect the people? What did he become? What did he do?

- The Hindu god Vishnu came to Earth to protect the people. Vishnu became Prince Rama. He defeated the evil demon, Ravana.

6. *Literal* Why did the people of the holy city light small lamps everywhere when Prince Rama returned after defeating Ravana?

- They wanted to celebrate his return and show that light and goodness have returned after many years of darkness and evil.

7. *Evaluative* Who is the goddess Lakshmi? Why do the Hindus like to welcome her spirit into their homes during Diwali?

- Lakshmi is the goddess of prosperity. Answers may vary, but might include that they want to have prosperity, wealth, and good luck.

[Please continue to model the *Think Pair Share* process for students, as necessary, and scaffold students in their use of the process.]

I am going to ask a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your partner and discuss the question. Finally, I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.

**Sentence Frames:**

Do you celebrate any holidays with your family? (Yes/No)

My family celebrates \_\_\_\_\_.

During \_\_\_\_\_ we celebrate . . .

8. *Evaluative Think Pair Share:* Diwali celebrates the good in yourself and others. Can you think of any customs or holidays your family or community has that celebrates the good in others? [If students have a difficult time answering, redirect the question and ask if they can think of a holiday they enjoy spending with family and relatives.]
9. After hearing today’s read-aloud and questions and answers, do you have any remaining questions? [If time permits, you may wish to allow for individual, group, or class research of the text and/or other resources to answer these questions.]

**Word Work: Custom**

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1. In the read-aloud you heard, “Every year after that, Hindus in the holy city repeated the *custom* of lighting lamps, honoring the strength and goodness of Rama.”
2. Say the word *custom* with me three times.
3. A custom is something that is a habit, done as a tradition, year after year, over and over again, usually in the same way. A custom is also a habitual practice that someone has.
4. It is Adeep’s custom to light ten candles during Diwali. Aruna has the custom of drinking a cup of water when she wakes up.
5. Do you have a custom or a habitual practice that you do everyday? What is your custom? Try to use the word *custom* when you tell about it. [Ask two or three students. If necessary, guide and/or rephrase the students’ responses: “My custom is to . . .”]
  - Answers may vary.
6. What’s the word we’ve been talking about?

Use a *Sharing* activity for follow-up. Directions: With your partner, talk about a custom you and your family have during a special holiday you celebrate.



**Complete Remainder of the Lesson Later in the Day**



# Diwali

6<sub>B</sub>

## Extensions

20 minutes

### Bhai Dooj: Celebrating Sibling Love

- Ask students, “What is the Hindu holiday you learned about today?”
- Have students tell their partner what they learned about Diwali from the read-aloud. Allow thirty seconds for students to talk. Call on several partner pairs to share. Be sure that these two points are mentioned: Diwali is a five-day festival, and Diwali celebrates the good in people.
- Tell students that on the last day, the fifth day, there is a special celebration called Bhai Dooj (BA-hi-ee-DOOJ). It is also called Bhau-Beej, Bhai Tika, or Bhai Phota, depending on which part of India it is being celebrated.
- Explain that during Bhai Dooj, sisters pray for their brothers to have long and prosperous lives and brothers give their sisters gifts. Bhai Dooj celebrates the special bond of love between brother and sister.
- Invite students to think about their brothers or sisters. If some students do not have siblings, have them think of a very close cousin or friend that is like a brother or sister to them. Have students think about what they like about their sibling(s) and the special things they do together or share together.
- Have students draw a picture of themselves with their siblings. The picture should show the sibling(s) doing something kind or special for the student. At the bottom of their picture, students should write a “Thank You” sentence to their sibling(s).
- Have students share their drawing and sentence in small groups.

### Domain-Related Trade Book

- Refer to the list of recommended trade books in the Introduction and choose one trade book related to Diwali to read aloud to the class.
- Explain to students that the person who wrote the book is called the author. Tell students the name of the author. Explain to students

that the person who makes the pictures for the book is called the illustrator. Tell students the name of the illustrator. Show students where they can find this information on the cover of the book or the title page.

- As you read, use the same strategies that you have been using when reading the read-aloud selections—pause and ask occasional questions; rapidly clarify critical vocabulary within the context of the read-aloud; etc.
- After you finish reading the trade book aloud, lead students in a discussion as to how the story or information in this book relates to the read-alouds in this domain.