SANATANAA

Diwali Classroom Visit Guide

Everything a parent needs to share the festival of lights with their child's class: what to say, what to bring, games, crafts, videos, and books.



What to say | What to bring | Games | 12 crafts | Videos | Books | 5 printables | Teacher email

A free printable for parents
From all of us at Sanatanaa

FREE GUIDE

START HERE

Your visit, made easy

Use as much or as little as you like. Most visits run 20 to 30 minutes. Pick one thing from a few sections and you're set.

1	What is Diwali?	3	6	Easy crafts	9
2	Who celebrates	4	7	Videos to share	10
3	How we celebrate	5	8	Books to read aloud	11
4	What to bring	6	+	Email to the teacher	12
5	Games, printouts, and talking	7	+	Printables	13

A simple 25-minute visit

TIME	WHAT YOU DO	USE
3 min	Say hello. Your child shows one special thing from home.	Section 4
4 min	Explain Diwali in a few kid-sized sentences.	Section 1
6 min	Read a picture book or play a short video.	Sections 7 and 8
10 min	A craft, a game, or a coloring page.	Sections 5 and 6
2 min	Ask one question, then say "Happy Diwali!" together.	Section 5

BEFORE YOU GO

Email the teacher first (there's a ready-to-send note on page 12). Ask about food rules, class size, how much time you have, and whether there's a screen.

Keep it cultural. Many schools don't allow religious lessons. This guide focuses on lights, family, kindness, and new beginnings, which every child can enjoy.

SECTION 1

What is Diwali?



Diwali (dih-WAH-lee) is the festival of lights. Families light rows of small lamps, decorate their homes, wear new clothes, share sweets, and spend time together.

The name comes from the Sanskrit word *Deepavali*, which means "row of lights." Diwali comes once a year, in October or November. The date changes each year because it follows a lunar calendar. In 2026, the main day of Diwali is Sunday, November 8.

For many families the celebration lasts five days. It also comes in autumn, around harvest time, so it's a season of thankfulness for good things.

READ ALOUD

Diwali is the festival of lights! When the nights get long and dark, families light lots of little lamps called **diyas**. They make colorful patterns called **rangoli**, wear their brightest clothes, share sweets with friends and neighbors, and say "Happy Diwali!" It's a time to be together and to be kind.

What Diwali teaches

Light over darkness
Even one small light makes a dark room brighter. We can choose good, even when things are hard.

New beginnings
Families clean and decorate, and many start the new year at Diwali. A fresh start for everyone.

Family and friends
People visit each other, eat together, and remember the people they love.

Kindness and sharing
Sweets and gifts go to neighbors, friends, and anyone who could use a little joy.

Thankfulness
Diwali comes at harvest time, a moment to be grateful for food, home, and each other.

Your own light
Everyone has something good to share. Diwali reminds us to let it shine.

SECTION 2

Who celebrates Diwali?

Diwali is celebrated by more than a billion people around the world, from many backgrounds and more than one religion.

Many communities

Hindus celebrate Diwali as one of their biggest festivals of the year.

Sikhs celebrate Bandi Chhor Divas at the same time, also with lights and fireworks.

Jains celebrate Diwali too, with their own meaning for the day.

Some Buddhists celebrate as well.

Many people who aren't religious enjoy the lights, food, and family time, too.

Around the world

Diwali is a public holiday in:

India · Nepal · Sri Lanka · Singapore · Malaysia · Fiji · Mauritius · Trinidad and Tobago · Guyana · Suriname

Big celebrations also happen in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and many other countries where families with roots in South Asia live.

Diwali in the United States

- [ ] New York City public schools close for Diwali. A New York law made it a school holiday in the city.
- [ ] Pennsylvania recognized Diwali as an official state holiday in 2024.
- [ ] California made Diwali a state holiday starting January 1, 2026.

FUN FACT FOR THE CLASS

In Nepal, the festival is called Tihar. In Malaysia and Singapore, people often call it Deepavali.

Sources: PBS KIDS for Parents; Tanenbaum Center 2026 Diwali fact sheet; Pennsylvania Governor's Office (2024); California AB 268; NY Education Law §2586-a; timeanddate.com.

SECTION 3

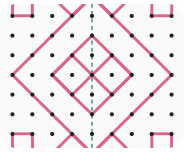
How we celebrate

Every family does Diwali a little differently. Here are the traditions kids love most. Ask your child to pick a favorite and tell the class about it.



Lights

Rows of small clay lamps called diyas glow in windows and doorways. Today many families also use string lights.



Rangoli

Bright patterns made on the floor with colored powder, rice, sand, or flower petals, to welcome guests.



Cleaning and new things

Families clean and decorate their homes, and some buy something new, like a pot or a piece of jewelry.

New clothes

Kids and grown-ups dress up in their brightest, sparkliest outfits.



Sweets

Treats called mithai, like ladoos and barfi, are made, shared, and given as gifts.



Fireworks

Many families watch fireworks or light sparklers (with grown-ups, outdoors).



Visiting family

People visit grandparents, cousins, and friends. One day honors brothers and sisters.



Gifts and food

Families cook big meals and exchange gifts and sweet boxes with neighbors.

Say it together: "Happy Diwali!" or "Shubh Deepavali!" (shoob deep-AH-vuh-lee), which means "happy Diwali."

SECTION 4

What to bring

Real things from home make the biggest impression. Pick a few, and label anything you need back.

Show and tell

- [ ] A few clay diyas (unlit), plus one LED tea light to show the glow
- [ ] A photo of a rangoli your family made
- [ ] Festive clothes: a kurta, sari, lehenga, or salwar kameez
- [ ] A dupatta (long scarf) and some bangles
- [ ] A paper lantern or string of lights
- [ ] A toran (door hanging) or a marigold garland
- [ ] An empty, decorated sweet box
- [ ] Diwali greeting cards
- [ ] Family photos from past Diwalis
- [ ] Something your child made at home

Dress-up corner

Kids love trying things on. Bring a few pieces and let volunteers dress up:

- [ ] Let a student try on a dupatta or a kurta
- [ ] Slip on bangles (bring extra; they break)
- [ ] Bindi stickers, optional, only with the teacher's okay
- [ ] A "Diwali selfie" frame for a class photo (ask about photo rules)

Supplies checklist

- [ ] Printouts: one per child, plus 5 extra
- [ ] Crayons and markers (ask if the class has them)
- [ ] LED tea lights for crafts or games
- [ ] Glue sticks, stickers, or gems
- [ ] Wet wipes and a bag for take-home work
- [ ] Your book or video link, ready to go

SCHOOL NORMS

Check with the teacher first. Use LED lights only: no candles, matches, sparklers, or poppers. If food is allowed, bring store-bought, sealed, nut-free treats with the label on, and ask about allergies. Ask before taking photos of other children.

SECTION 5

Games and printouts

Quick, low-mess games that work in a classroom. Printables are at the back of this guide.

Games

1. **Pass the light.** Sit in a circle and pass an LED tea light while music plays. When it stops, the child holding it shares one kind thing they did this week.
2. **Diwali bingo.** Call out words like "diya" and "sweets." First to fill a row says "Happy Diwali!"
3. **Diwali charades.** Act out lighting a lamp, sweeping, eating a ladoo, or watching fireworks.
4. **Light up the room.** Turn the lights low. Each child switches on an LED tea light, one by one, and watches the room get brighter.
5. **Freeze dance.** Play a festive song. Freeze in a "diya" pose when it stops.
6. **Rangoli relay.** Teams take turns adding one shape to a chalk or paper rangoli.
7. **Memory match.** Pairs of picture cards: diya, lantern, sweets, rangoli, fireworks.

Printouts in this guide

- [ ] Rangoli coloring page (page 13)
- [ ] Mirror rangoli: draw the other half (page 14)
- [ ] Diya coloring page (page 15)
- [ ] Word search (page 16)
- [ ] Diwali bingo, four cards (page 17)

MAKE IT LAST

Laminate one set of bingo cards and reuse them every year. Use LED tea lights as bingo markers.

More printout ideas

- [ ] A paper diya to cut out and decorate
- [ ] A blank greeting card: "Happy Diwali, from ___"
- [ ] A "kindness flame": each child writes one kind act on a paper flame for a class display

SECTION 5, CONTINUED

Talk about it

Questions turn a fun visit into real learning. Pick two or three for your child's grade.

PRE-K TO GRADE 1

1. What's your favorite kind of light?
2. Who do you like to celebrate with?
3. What would you wear to a party?
4. Which sweet treat would you share with a friend?
5. What colors would you use in a rangoli?

GRADES 2 TO 3

6. Why do you think people light lamps when nights get longer?
7. Families clean and start fresh at Diwali. What would you like to start new?
8. How can you be a "light" for someone this week?
9. What holidays does your family celebrate? What's the same as Diwali?

GRADES 4 AND UP

10. People of different religions celebrate Diwali. Why might one festival mean different things to different people?
11. What does "light over darkness" mean to you?
12. How do people mark new beginnings in other cultures?

Ways to get kids involved

- [ ] **Co-host with your child.** Let them hold up each item and say what it is.
- [ ] **Dress-up volunteers.** Invite two or three kids to try on a dupatta, kurta, or bangles.
- [ ] **Class rangoli.** Everyone adds one shape to a big paper rangoli for the classroom door.
- [ ] **Kindness lamp wall.** Kids write or draw a kind act on a paper diya flame.
- [ ] **Taste test,** only if the school allows it: one store-bought, nut-free sweet.
- [ ] **Greeting cards.** Kids make a "Happy Diwali" card for someone at home.
- [ ] **Photo tour.** Show three family photos and let kids guess what's happening.
- [ ] **Light count.** Younger kids count LED lights as you switch them on.

SECTION 6

Easy crafts

Crafts you can buy ready to go. Tap a name to open it on Amazon. Order a week ahead.

	CRAFT AND PRODUCT	PRICE
1	**Shape and paint clay diyas** Crayola Air-Dry Clay, 2.5 lb bucket. Pinch-pot diyas; add any washable kids' paint once dry (24–72 hours, so kids take theirs home)	No featured offer shown; see listing
2	**Decorate diyas with gems** EODIEBN 3228 pcs Self-Adhesive Gem Stickers, 12 sheets (4.8 stars, 1,222 ratings)	$8.99
3	**Gem stickers, budget pick** TTKKYN Gem Stickers, 10 sheets, 2118 pcs (4.6 stars, 86 ratings)	$3.99
4	**Diwali scratch art** JULMELON 36 Pcs Diwali Rainbow Scratch Art (diyas, lanterns, peacocks; 4.6 stars, 472 ratings). Some buyers got fewer sticks; bring toothpicks	$7.99
5	**Diwali scratch art, second pick** HOWAF 36 Pcs Diwali Scratch Cards with 10 sticks and ribbons (diya and rangoli designs; only 2 ratings so far)	$7.99
6	**Battery tea lights for every diya** Homemory 24-Pack Flameless LED Tea Lights, batteries included (4.7 stars, 77,943 ratings)	$11.99
7	**Mess-free sand rangoli** Kulture Khazana Rangoli Mandala Sand Art Kit (4 peel-and-stick boards, 8 sand tubes, tray; ages 5+)	$14.99
8	**Sand rangoli for a whole class** Hygloss Colored Sand, 12 colors, 6 oz each (ages 3+; use trays)	$33.99
9	**Big rangoli stencils** Watersay 8 Set Rangoli Plastic Stencils, 9 x 9 in.	$7.99
10	**Giant group coloring poster** OHOME Diwali Giant Coloring Poster/Tablecloth, 30 x 72 in. (4.8 stars, 1,754 ratings)	$5.39
11	**Color-your-own puzzle** Cinrobiye 24 Pcs Diwali Mandala Coloring Jigsaw Craft Kits (pick the Diwali/Mandala style)	$16.99
12	**Color-your-own magnets** Gemscream 30 Pcs Diwali Color Your Own Magnets, crayons included (pick the Diwali style)	$14.99

Links checked Oct 18, 2026. Prices are as shown on Amazon that day and change often.

No-buy crafts: paper-plate diyas with stickers, chalk rangoli on the playground (ask first), folded paper lanterns, handprint diyas, and Diwali greeting cards.

SECTION 7

Videos to share

Short, kid-friendly clips from official channels. Tap a title to open it on YouTube.

1 **Celebrate Diwali Festival of Lights Holiday w/ Fireworks | Me & Mickey | Vlog 21**
Disney Jr. · 2:10 · posted Oct 24, 2022 · PreK–1
Mickey makes a rangoli, adds lights, and ends with fireworks. Also on Disney+ as Me & Mickey, Season 1, Episode 21, "Diwali."

2 **Mira Celebrates Diwali | Mira, Royal Detective**
Disney Jr. · 4:47 · posted Nov 6, 2020 · PreK–2
Mikku and Chikku ask Mira what her favorite part of Diwali is.

3 **Diwali | Music Video | Mira, Royal Detective**
Disney Jr. · 1:40 · posted Nov 14, 2020 · PreK–2
A short, upbeat Diwali song. Great for a sing-along.

4 **The Great Diwali Mystery | Mira, Royal Detective**
Disney Kids · 3:28 · posted Oct 31, 2021 · PreK–2
Mira tracks down the oil used to light lamps all over town.

5 **Sesame Street: Celebrate Diwali Song! The Festival of Lights!**
Sesame Street · 1:38 · posted Oct 17, 2022 · PreK–1
Elmo, Cookie Monster, and Rosita sing about food, art, and fireworks. Preview first: the lyrics may briefly mention the Goddess Lakshmi.

6 **Blippi Learns About Diwali!**
Blippi Wonders · 3:46 · posted Nov 1, 2023 · PreK–1
Blippi and Meekah help Deep the diya light lanterns, with a Bollywood beat.

7 **Happy Diwali from JoJo & Gran Gran**
CBeebies · 2:17 · posted Oct 24, 2022 · PreK–1
JoJo and Gran Gran join their friends Raya and Nerada for Diwali.

8 **Happy Diwali from Mr Tumble**
Mr Tumble and Friends (BBC) · 3:35 · posted Nov 13, 2020 · PreK–K
Uses Makaton signs alongside speech, so it works well for mixed-needs classrooms.

9 **CBeebies Songs | What is Diwali? | The Let's Go Club**
CBeebies · 2:24 · PreK–1
A short song that answers "What is Diwali?"

10 **What is Diwali? Festival of Lights Explained | Newsround**
BBC Newsround · 3:49 · posted Oct 21, 2025 · Grades 3–6
Kids' news explainer. Preview first: it may include origin stories.

11 **All About Diwali for Kids | Twinkl USA**
Twinkl Teaching Resources – United States · 3:20 · posted Oct 13, 2022 · Grades 1–4
Chapters: what, when, history, and ways to celebrate. Preview the "history" part (1:17–2:21) and skip it if your school prefers.

All links checked Oct 18, 2026 on the official channels shown. Watch every video before class: schools often ask for this, and ads may play.

SECTION 8

Books to read aloud

Picture books about the traditions of Diwali, chosen for how they celebrate rather than religious stories. Tap a title to open it on Amazon.

	BOOK	PRICE
1	**Binny's Diwali** Thrity Umrigar; illustrated by Nidhi Chanani · ages 4–8 · Hardcover Binny shares Diwali with her class: fireworks, sweets, and diyas. A perfect match for a classroom visit.	$11.13
2	**The Best Diwali Ever** Sonali Shah; illustrated by Chaaya Prabhat · ages 4–6 · Paperback Sweets, diyas, a rangoli contest, and a clumsy little brother. About loving people for who they are.	$5.33
3	**A Sweet Diwali (Step into Reading, Step 2)** Harshita Jerath; illustrated by Geeta Ladi · ages 4–6 · Paperback Raina and her dog Lion get ready for Diwali. An easy reader new readers can try themselves.	$5.99
4	**It's Diwali!** Kabir Sehgal and Surishtha Sehgal; illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan · ages 4–8 · Hardcover A counting book sung to "One, Two, Buckle My Shoe," with sweets, henna, and fireworks.	$10.73
5	**Shubh Diwali!** Chitra Soundar; illustrated by Charlene Chua · ages 4–8 · Paperback Bouncy rhymes about rangoli, lamps, and family. Preview: one line mentions stories about the Gods.	$9.31
6	**Happy Diwali! (Peppa Pig)** Scholastic · ages 3–5 · Paperback Peppa's family learns about the festival of lights, dresses up, and has a party.	$5.00
7	**Diwali (Celebrate the World)** Hannah Eliot; illustrated by Archana Sreenivasan · ages 2–5 · Board book A short board book for the youngest classes. Preview: it briefly mentions prayer.	$7.15

Prices as shown on Amazon on Oct 18, 2026, new copies. Prices change often. Your public library may have these too.

READING TIP

Hold the book up and turn it toward the class on every page. Pause to ask, "What do you see?" A 32-page picture book takes about 5 to 7 minutes.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Email to the teacher

Copy, paste, and fill in the highlighted parts. Send it two to three weeks before Diwali.

Subject: Sharing Diwali with the class?

Hi [Teacher's name],

Diwali, the festival of lights, is on [date] this year, and our family celebrates it. [Child's name] would love to share it with the class. Would you be open to a short visit, about 20 to 30 minutes, sometime around then?

I'm thinking of a picture book or a short video, a look at a few things we use at home (like clay lamps and festive clothes), and a simple craft or coloring page. I'll keep it cultural and kid-friendly, use battery tea lights only, and follow your rules on food, or skip food entirely.

A few quick questions:

- Which days and times work best?
- How many students are in the class?
- Is there a screen I can use for a short video?
- Are there any allergies or rules I should know about?

Thank you so much!

[Your name]
[Child's name]'s parent

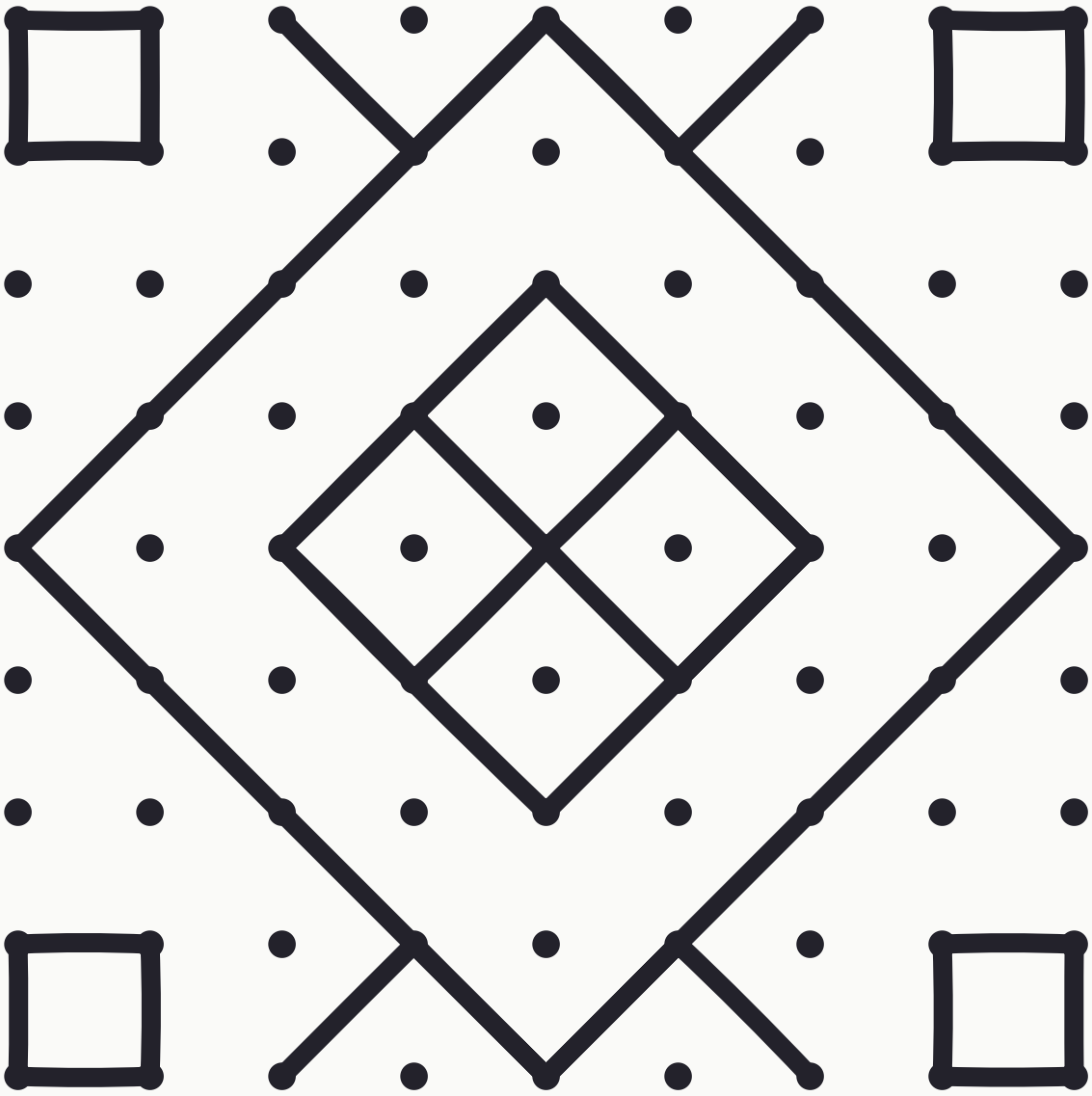
AFTER THE VISIT

A short thank-you note to the teacher goes a long way, and makes next year's visit easy to plan.

PRINTABLE

Color the rangoli

A rangoli at the door says "Welcome!" Color it with your brightest colors.

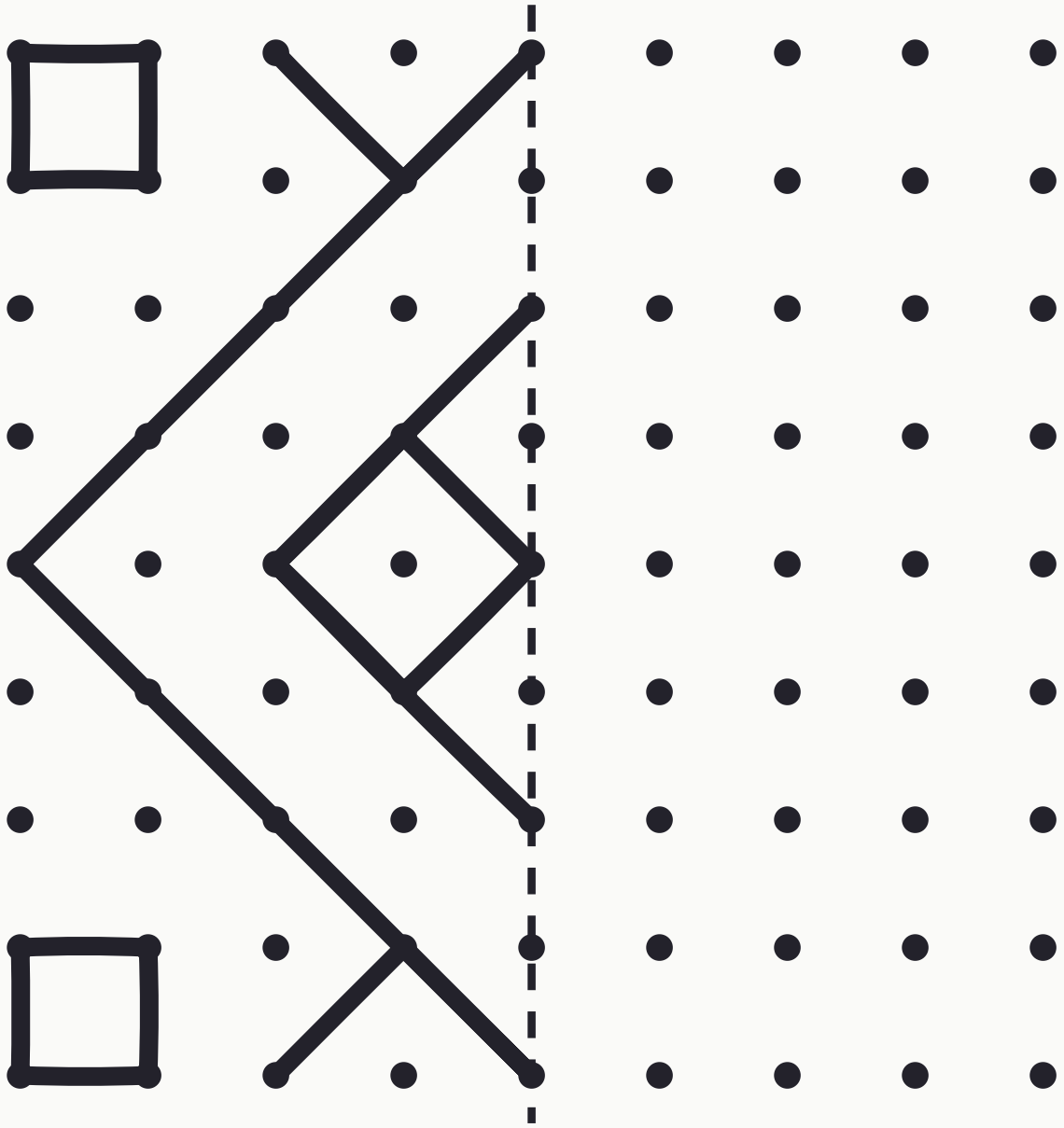


Name _____ Class _____

PRINTABLE

Mirror rangoli

Rangoli patterns are often the same on both sides. Draw the missing half to match, like a mirror. Then color it!



Name _____ Class _____

PRINTABLE

Color the diya

A diya is a small clay lamp. Decorate yours with patterns and bright colors.



Name _____ Class _____

PRINTABLE

Diwali word search

Find the words. They go across, down, or diagonally.

R	G	M	F	A	S	D	I	W	A	L	I
G	D	M	E	C	B	P	F	L	V	L	A
I	A	R	S	P	K	L	A	W	J	O	K
F	R	D	T	P	O	A	M	R	T	U	F
T	A	E	I	T	R	M	I	G	K	N	U
S	N	K	V	O	U	P	L	H	W	L	Y
C	G	S	A	M	B	G	Y	V	F	B	E
V	O	S	L	B	L	A	N	T	E	R	N
O	L	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	V	G
P	I	Y	W	A	L	I	G	H	T	S	E
V	R	G	R	E	D	I	Y	A	F	W	F
M	I	N	S	N	S	W	E	E	T	S	C

DIWALI · DIYA · LIGHTS · RANGOLI · SWEETS · FAMILY · GIFTS · LAMP · LANTERN · KINDNESS · SPARKLE · FESTIVAL

Name _____ Class _____

PRINTABLE

Diwali bingo

Cut out the four cards. Call out words from the list in any order. Four in a row wins! Use LED tea lights or crayons as markers.

D	I	Y	A
Friends	Dance	Smile	Stars
Family	★ FREE	Sweets	Ladoo
Lights	Gifts	Flowers	Bangles
Music	Rangoli	Lantern	Sparkle

D	I	Y	A
Fireworks	Gifts	Diya	Friends
New clothes	★ FREE	Card	Rangoli
Music	Flowers	Kindness	Sparkle
Lantern	Smile	Dance	Sweets

D	I	Y	A
Stars	New clothes	Gifts	Lights
Kindness	★ FREE	Flowers	Music
Sparkle	Sweets	Friends	Bangles
Ladoo	Smile	Dance	Fireworks

D	I	Y	A
Sparkle	Music	Dance	Lantern
New clothes	★ FREE	Family	Stars
Fireworks	Diya	Smile	Rangoli
Card	Bangles	Gifts	Ladoo

Caller's list: Diya, Rangoli, Sweets, Lantern, Fireworks, New clothes, Family, Gifts, Lights, Bangles, Flowers, Card, Ladoo, Sparkle, Friends, Kindness, Music, Dance, Stars, Smile.

THANK YOU

Thank you for sharing your light

When you visit your child's class, you give every child a little window into a new festival, and you give your own child a proud moment they'll remember.



About Sanatanaa

Sanatanaa mails a printed letter to kids every month: Hindu spirituality for kids, with stories and activities made for their age. If you'd like Diwali to keep glowing at home, find us at sanatanaa.com.

All the links in one place

Scan to open every craft, video, and book link on your phone.

sanatanaa.com/diwali-classroom-links

ON INSTAGRAM

Share your classroom Diwali!

Snap the crafts, diyas, or rangoli your class made and tag **@sanatanaakids**. We'd love to see them! Photos of crafts and decorations are perfect, no faces needed.

instagram.com/sanatanaakids

Happy Diwali!

From all of us at Sanatanaa

