

International Activity Badge Requirement 4.



Diwali

By introducing the customs and story behind Diwali, the Cubs will learn why the celebration happens.

The customary greeting associated with Diwali is 'Shubh Deepavali' which means 'have an auspicious Diwali'.

- Diwali marks the Hindu New Year. It is the largest and most celebrated festival in India and is largely celebrated across the UK.
- Diwali or Deepavali is considered as the 'festival of light'. It signifies the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- Goddess Lakshmi the Hindu Goddess of Wealth and Prosperity is generally worshiped on this auspicious day.
- Deepavali is referred to as Deepavali while Narakasura Vadha is the main celebration day in South India.
- Diwali is celebrated to mark the return of Lord Rama after a 14 year exile according to the North Indian traditions by Hindus.
- The death of the evil Narakusa at the hands of lord Krishna is the main reason for celebrating Diwali by Hindus in South India.
- In Malaysia Diwali, Diwali is a National public holiday and is celebrated as Hari Diwali in the month of Aswayuja.
- Tihar or Swanti are the names referred to Diwali in Nepal and on the fourth day, the Hindu God of Death, Yama is worshipped for longer life of people for a longer life of the people.
- According to Nilmal puran, Diwali celebrations is referred to as Sukhssuptika which literally means to sleep with happiness. Kashmiri pandits stills follow this age old ritual today.
- On Diwali farmers thank the deities for the harvests they had and pray for a prosperous harvesting season in the upcoming year as it marks the end of the harvest season and the onset of winter.
- There is a unique traditional practice in Orissa where the people call upon the spirits of their dead ancestors. They burn jute stems to shed light on the dark path of the spirits on their way to heaven.
- Gambling during Diwali is admitted as there is a belief that it brings good luck and prosperity in the year ahead.
- The festival of Diwali is celebrated by the Sikhs significantly like Hindus since 1577 as the foundation stone of the golden temple was laid on the day of Diwali.
- The Jain community in India celebrates the next day of Diwali as New Year's Day. On Diwali it is said that lord Mahavira attained his Moksha or his Nirvana.