

# World Religions

## Outdoors: Diwali

Adorn your grounds with light and colourful floor art in celebration of the festival of light

All

Religions,  
Beliefs &  
Values



Diwali is the festival of lights in which the symbolism of light triumphing over darkness is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and some Buddhists across the world.

During this time the outside entrances to homes are decorated with intricate floor art called Rangoli and lit up with clay candle holders called diva.

The festival climax is the third day of a 5-day celebration coinciding with the new moon (darkest night) in the second half of October/early November.

The study of Diwali can be a valuable prompt for reflection upon the ways in which followers of world religions mark major life events and times of year and how similar/different the approaches are in diverse cultures.

There are also nice links to be made with Science and the lunar cycle.

### Rangoli

#### Equipment

- Chalk, flour or rice
- Coloured powder such as powder paint, chalk or sand
- Card or funnel

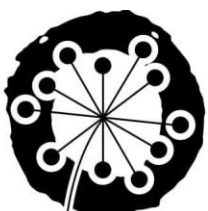
Prepare a white outline of the design using chalk, flour or rice. Popular designs in Hindu culture include lotus flowers, symmetrical circular patterns or even depictions of gods. The white outline should then be filled carefully with coloured powder. This can be coloured flour, rice or sand, crushed chalk or powder paint. Application of the powder can be done simply by using a piece of rolled card to act as a funnel.

### Divya

#### Equipment

- Clay
- Paint
- Votive candles

Take a palm sized ball of clay and shape it into a small bowl with a point at one end. Once dried this can be painted and used to hold a votive candle. Decorate the Rangoli with lit divya lamps.



Learning  
through  
Landscapes

For more resources visit [www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources](http://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources)

© This activity sheet was created by Learning through Landscapes  
Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SCO38890

