



Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Chola	Traditional clothes worn by Sikhs.
Exile	To be expelled or barred from your native country.
Lakshmi	The Hindu goddess of wealth and good fortune.
Ramayan	A legendary story about Rama (The Warrior God) and Sita (his wife).
Rangoli	A colourful design on the floor outside a house, welcoming visitors including Lakshmi into the house.
Guru	Someone who enlightens others and shows others the right way to live.
Golden Temple	The Central religious place for Sikhs. A place of great beauty and peace.
Deities	A supernatural being who is considered divine or sacred.
Lunisolar Calendar	A calendar year dictated by both the moon and the sun.

Key point: There is more that joins us than divides us.

Why Hindus Celebrate Diwali:

- Diwali celebrates the coming of the New Year and honours the goddess, **Lakshmi**.
- The **Ramayan**, a legendary story about Rama and Sita, is told during Diwali.
- After being **exiled** from their home, Sita is kidnapped by Ravana.
- Rama, with the help of many animals, fought a mighty battle and was triumphant in bringing Sita home again.
- The story helps us remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil.
- Rama and Sita are believed to be the God Vishnu and the Goddess **Lakshmi** in human form.



Rama



Sita



Lakshmana

Why Sikhs celebrate Diwali:

- **Diwali** coincides with Bandi Chhor Divas (the day of liberation) is the celebration of the release from prison of **Guru Hargobind**.
- The Moghuls explained to the **Guru** that whoever could hold onto his Chola could walk free with him.
- The Sikhs made a special **Chola** with 52 long strips of cloth.
- Upon his return to Amritsar, grand celebrations took place at **The Golden Temple**.



Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word 'deepavali' meaning rows of lighted lamps.

Hindu Diwali Celebrations

- Hindus use the **lunisolar calendar** to work out when to celebrate Diwali.
- The celebration usually takes between 3-5 days and focuses on unity, kindness and acceptance of other faiths and races.
- Day 1 – Dhanteras – Day of cleaning and decorating homes and shops with **Rangoli**.
- Day 2 – Naraka Chaturdasi – Day when Henna is painted on hands and food is prepared.
- Day 3 – Diwali Day – Best clothes and jewellery are worn and prayers are said to Lakshmi.
- Mothers are given special gifts to honour what they do throughout the year.
- Doors and windows are sometimes left open to welcome **Lakshmi** into homes.



Sikh Diwali Celebrations

- Sikhs are celebrating Bandhi Chhor - '**Prisoner Release Day**'.
- Sikhs will visit the **Gurdwara** where they will pray and meditate.
- They will light divas and set off fireworks in celebration.
- In India, oil lamps are floated across The Ganges – it is regarded as a good omen if the lamp reaches the opposite bank of the river.
- Traditionally sweets and dried fruit were exchanged with friends and families



Extending your learning:

- Create a Venn showing the similarities and differences between Hindu and Sikh Diwali.
- Visit the Shri Kutch Satsang Swaminarayan Temple in Harrow.
 - Create a presentation about the similarities between the differing religions found in your class remembering that there is more that joins us together than divides us.