



9

Name:..... Form:.....

See pages 20 and 21 of Hindu mandir

Special days at the mandir

Festivals and special ceremonies are another important type of worship that happens in the mandir.

Q1. What does the holiday Diwali celebrate?





Q2. What god is the festival of Maha Sivarathri for?



Q3. What does the festival Maha Sivarathri celebrate?



Q4. Why are the statues of gods and goddesses sometimes paraded around on holidays?





Q5. List two things that may happen at a Hindu festival.





Q6. Why do worshippers give gifts of laddoo at festivals for Ganesha?







Answers

1. **The killing of an evil demon by Lord Rama.**
2. **Shiva.**
3. **A time when Shiva saved the world by drinking a deadly poison.**
4. **It is an ancient way of showing respect to the gods and goddesses.**
5. **Offerings of fire and decorated coconuts, special prayers may be said, there may be singing and music, statues may be paraded around, gifts may be given.**
6. **It is Ganesha's favourite food.**

Lesson objectives

- ▶ To introduce the children to some of the festivals and celebrations that may occur at the mandir.
- ▶ To introduce the children to some of the ways festivals are celebrated in the mandir.

Lesson outcomes

- ▶ The children can understand that festivals and celebrations are dedicated to different gods and goddesses.
- ▶ The children can understand that there are many different festivals and celebrations that may occur at a mandir.

Teaching notes

You may also like to use this during a study of holidays or around the time of Diwali.

In addition to festivals devoted to gods and goddesses, there are also Hindu festivals which commemorate events in the epic tales. For example, Diwali is one of the most popular

Hindu festivals. It originates in the Ramayana, the epic text about King (Lord) Rama and Queen Sita of Ayodha. Diwali is the day King Rama's coronation is celebrated after his epic war with Ravana, the demon king of Lanka. All of the stories in the Ramayana have symbolism attached to them. The symbolism of Diwali is that it is a celebration of the defeat of ignorance and evil (darkness) by purity (light). Holi is another very popular festival which celebrates the Hindu New Year in spring.

Complementary work

The children could use secondary sources to investigate different Hindu festivals. Each student or pair could choose a different festival or celebration, make posters, and then present the information they have learned to the class.

Resources

Secondary sources about Hindu festivals and holidays, poster-making materials (card, pens, paper, and so on).