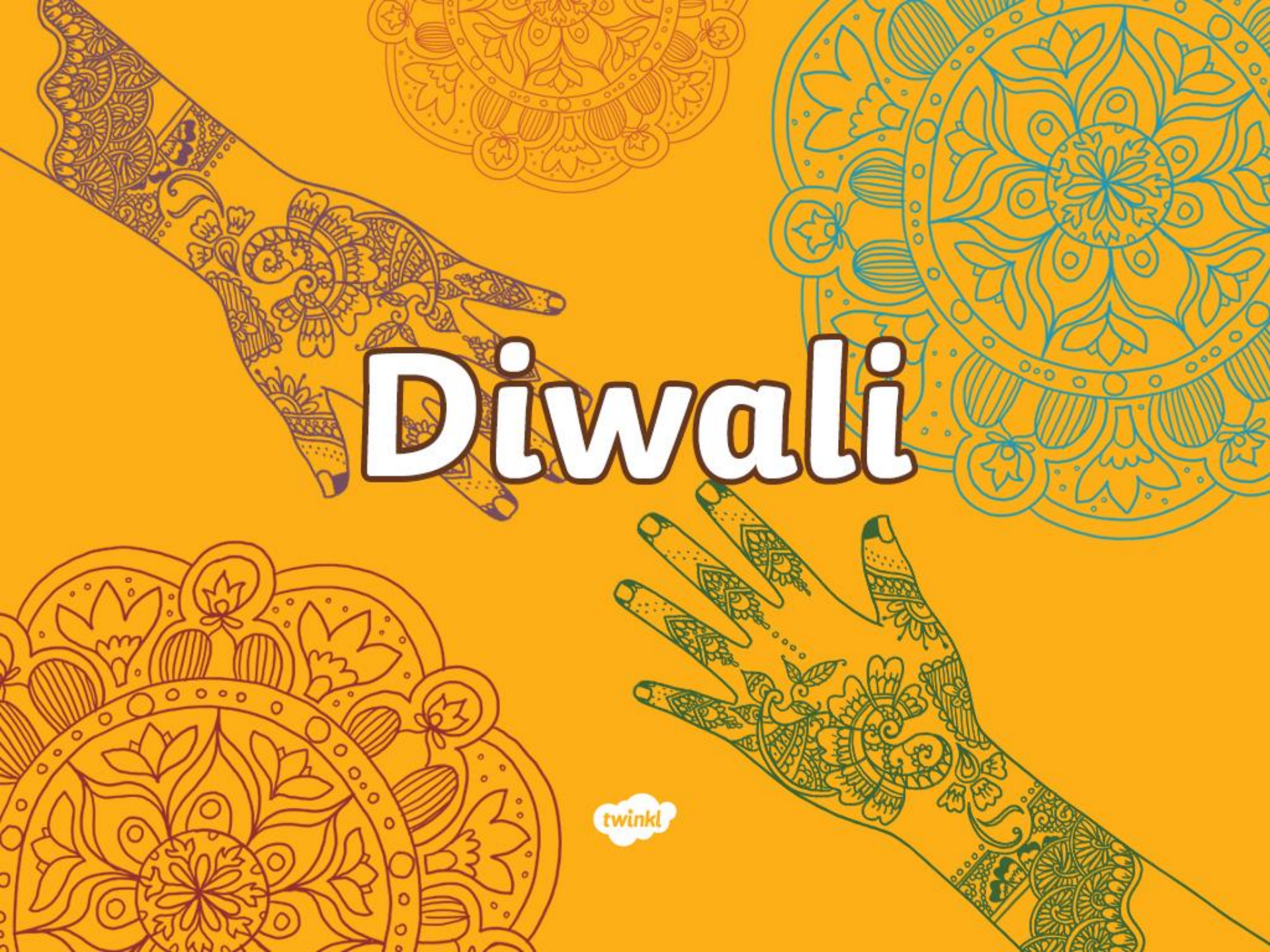


Diwali

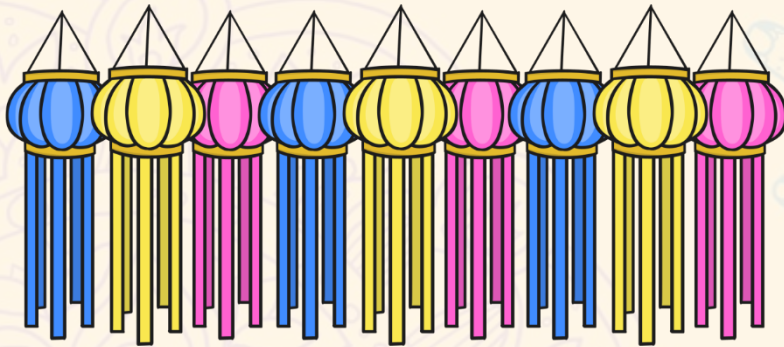


What is Diwali?

Diwali is a very important holiday in India.

It is a Hindu 'festival of lights' which celebrates the New Year.

The word Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'.





Celebrating Diwali

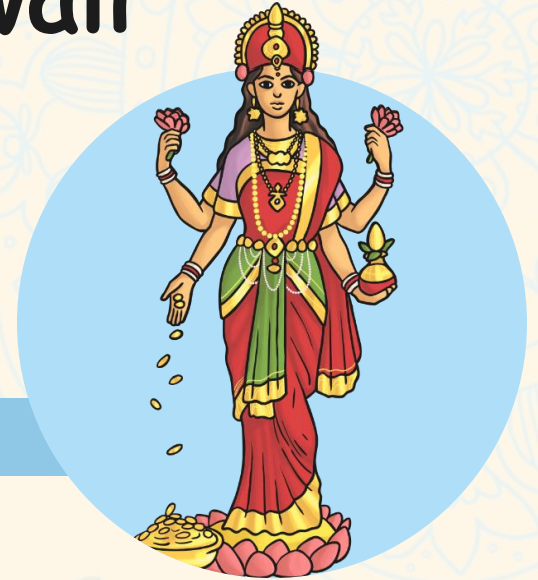
The festival usually honours **Lakshmi**, the goddess of wealth.

Lamps are lit to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes.



Diya lamp

Lakshmi



In India, Hindus leave the windows and doors of their houses open so that Lakshmi can come in and grant them good fortune.

Lamps are lit to drive away evil spirits and welcome Lakshmi.



Celebrating Diwali Sikhs – Guru Hargobind sixth Guru.



Celebrating Diwali Jains – Lord Mahavira




Celebrating Diwali Hindus

They also celebrate a Diwali legend: the story of the return of **Rama** and **Sita** to Rama's kingdom after fourteen years of exile.





Rama and Sita reunite after Sita gets kidnapped, and they began their long journey back to their land. Lamps were lit by everybody to help them on their way and welcome them back.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-festivals-diwali-rama-and-sita/zc84cmn>



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BAPS SHRI SWAMINARAYAN MANDIR TEMPLE

Celebrating Diwali

The festival is a time for:

- spring cleaning
- decorating the home with lots of lights
- wearing new clothes
- exchanging gifts
- preparing festival meals
- putting on huge fireworks displays



Hindu family praying

Celebrating Diwali

Rangoli are drawn on the floors of the house. These are patterns and the most popular subject is the lotus flower.



Lotus flower





The Meaning of Diwali

The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.

The legends that go with the festival differ depending on where you are.



Festivals of Lights





twinkl

