

Transcript of Celebration Time – Episode 1

All About Diwali

Laura Dahl: Hello and welcome to Celebration Time for our amazing Diwali episode. It's so lovely to have you here with us, Anushka.

Anushka Shree: It's great to be here, Laura.

Laura Dahl: Anushka, you are a Hindu. Can you explain what that means?

Anushka Shree: A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism.

Laura Dahl: What is Hinduism?

Anushka Shree: Hinduism is a very old religion. It has been practised for thousands of years. It's now the third largest religion in the world.



Laura Dahl: Wow! What do Hindus believe?

Anushka Shree: There are lots of different beliefs and practices within Hinduism. Many Hindus believe that the god Brahman created everything. Brahman does not have just one form. He is sometimes shown as other gods, like Vishnu, Krishna, Rama or Shiva.

Laura Dahl: That's really interesting. Does Hinduism have any holy books?

Anushka Shree: We have lots of important texts. The Vedas are a collection of songs. The Ramayana is full of long poems. The Mahabharata and the Puranas are full of stories. Our special holidays are mentioned in these texts, including Diwali.

Laura Dahl: What's Diwali?

Anushka Shree: Diwali is one of Hinduism's happiest holidays! The word Diwali comes from an ancient word meaning 'rows of lights'. It's no wonder then that Diwali is often known as the festival of lights! The lamps we use are said to represent parts of the sun.



Laura Dahl: What lamps do you use?

Anushka Shree: They are called Diya lamps. We put them in our homes, in shops, in public places... everywhere!

Laura Dahl: Why do you use so many?

Anushka Shree: We believe that lighting our Diya lamps will help Lakshmi (the goddess of wealth) find her way into our homes. We also believe that the light from the lamps shows that light will always win over darkness. In this way, good will always win over evil.

Laura Dahl: What a fantastic message. Stay tuned and join us after this break to find out more about Diwali.



Questions

1. Which statement is true? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Diwali is a very old religion.
- ☐ Hindus believe that Diwali created everything.
- ☐ The Vedas are an important text.
- ☐ Hinduism has no holy books.

2. Which of these phrases best describe Diwali? Tick **two**.

- ☐ a happy holiday
- ☐ a time for work
- ☐ a Hindu celebration
- ☐ an old religion

3. Number the facts below to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

	Hinduism is a very old religion.
	There are lots of important texts for Hindus.
1	A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism.
	Hindus light Diya lamps in their homes and shops.
	There are lots of different Hindu beliefs.

4. Join the boxes to match the word to its description.

Diwali
Ramayana
Diya

a type of lamp
a holiday
a book of poems

5. Find and copy the name of **one** Hindu god.

6. Which goddess do Hindus try to guide by lighting lamps?

7. Do you think you would enjoy celebrating Diwali? Explain your answer.

Answers

1. Which statement is true? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Diwali is a very old religion.
- ☐ Hindus believe that Diwali created everything.
- ☒ **The Vedas are an important text.**
- ☐ Hinduism has no holy books.

2. Which of these phrases best describe Diwali? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **a happy holiday**
- ☐ a time for work
- ☒ **a Hindu celebration**
- ☐ an old religion

3. Number the facts below to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

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4	There are lots of important texts for Hindus.
1	A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism.
5	Hindus light Diya lamps in their homes and shops.
3	There are lots of different Hindu beliefs.

4. Join the boxes to match the word to its description.

Diwali	a type of lamp
Ramayana	a holiday
Diya	a book of poems

5. Find and copy the name of **one** Hindu god.

Accept any one of the following answers: Brahman; Vishnu; Krishna; Rama; Shiva.

6. Which goddess do Hindus try to guide by lighting lamps?

Hindus light lamps to try to guide the goddess Lakshmi.

7. Do you think you would enjoy celebrating Diwali? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that I would like to celebrate Diwali because it is one of Hinduism's happiest holidays and sounds like it would be fun to take part in.

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Laura Dahl: Hello and welcome to Celebration Time for our amazing Diwali episode. It's so lovely to have you here with us, Anushka.

Anushka Shree: It's great to be here, Laura.

Laura Dahl: Anushka, you are a Hindu. Can you explain what that means?

Anushka Shree: A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism.

Laura Dahl: What is Hinduism?

Anushka Shree: Hinduism is a very old religion. It has been practised for thousands of years. It's now the third largest religion in the world.



Laura Dahl: Wow! What do Hindus believe?

Anushka Shree: There are lots of different beliefs and practices within Hinduism. Many Hindus believe that the god Brahman created everything. Brahman does not have just one form. He is sometimes shown as other gods, like Vishnu, Krishna, Rama or Shiva.

Laura Dahl: That's really interesting. Does Hinduism have any holy books?

Anushka Shree: We have lots of important texts. The Vedas are a collection of songs. The Ramayana is full of long poems. The Mahabharata and the Puranas are full of stories. Our special holidays are mentioned in these texts, including Diwali.

Laura Dahl: What's Diwali?

Anushka Shree: Diwali is one of Hinduism's happiest holidays! The word Diwali comes from an ancient Sanskrit word meaning 'rows of lights'. It's no wonder then that Diwali is often known as the festival of lights! The lamps we use are said to represent parts of the sun.

Laura Dahl: What lamps do you use?

Anushka Shree: They are called Diya lamps. We put them in our homes, in shops, in public places... everywhere!

Laura Dahl: Why do you use so many?

Anushka Shree: We believe that lighting our Diya lamps will help Lakshmi (the goddess of wealth) find her way into our homes. We also believe that the light from the lamps shows that light will always win over darkness. In this way, good will always win over evil.

Laura Dahl: What a fantastic message. Stay tuned and join us after this break to find out more about Diwali.



Questions

1. Which of these is not an important Hindu text? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Ramayana
- ☐ Diwali
- ☐ Mahabharata
- ☐ Vedas

2. For which of these reasons might somebody follow Hinduism? Tick **two**.

- ☐ because of where they are from
- ☐ as their religion
- ☐ because they like Diya lamps
- ☐ because of Diwali

3. Number the facts below to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

	Hinduism has been practised for thousands of years.
	There are stories in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.
1	A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism.
	The word Diwali comes from an ancient Sanskrit word.
	Many Hindus believe that the god Brahman created everything.

4. Join the boxes to match the word to its contents.

Vedas
Ramayana
Mahabharata

stories
songs
poems

5. In which important text is Diwali mentioned?

6. The word Diwali comes from a word in which ancient language?

7. Why do you think that Diwali is 'one of Hinduism's happiest holidays'?

8. Give two reasons why Hindus put Diya lamps in many places.

Answers

1. Which of these is not an important Hindu text? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Ramayana
☒ **Diwali**
☐ Mahabharata
☐ Vedas

2. For which of these reasons might somebody follow Hinduism? Tick **two**.

- ☒ **because of where they are from**
☒ **as their religion**
☐ because they like Diya lamps
☐ because of Diwali

3. Number the facts below to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

2	Hinduism has been practised for thousands of years.
4	There are stories in the Mahabharata and the Puranas.
1	A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism.
5	The word Diwali comes from an ancient Sanskrit word.
3	Many Hindus believe that the god Brahman created everything.

4. Join the boxes to match the word to its contents.

Vedas	stories
Ramayana	songs
Mahabharata	poems

5. In which important text is Diwali mentioned?

The important text in which Diwali is mentioned is the Puranas.

6. The word Diwali comes from a word in which ancient language?

The word Diwali comes from a word in the ancient language of Sanskrit.

7. Why do you think that Diwali is 'one of Hinduism's happiest holidays'?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Diwali might be one of Hinduism's happiest holidays because everybody is positive and believes that good will win over evil.

8. Give two reasons why Hindus put Diya lamps in many places.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Hindus put Diya lamps in many places both to guide the goddess Lakshmi to their homes and to represent that light wins over darkness.

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Laura Dahl: Hello and welcome to Celebration Time for our amazing Diwali special. It's so lovely to have you here with us, Anushka.

Anushka Shree: It's great to be here, Laura.

Laura Dahl: Anushka, you are a Hindu. Can you explain to the viewers what that means?

Anushka Shree: Absolutely. A Hindu is someone who follows Hinduism. They may follow it as their religion, embrace it as their culture or see it as their ethnicity because of where they are from.

Laura Dahl: What is Hinduism?

Anushka Shree: Hinduism is an ancient religion which has been practised for thousands of years. In fact, it's the third largest religion in the world. There are over one billion Hindus across the world!

Laura Dahl: Wow! That's a lot of people. Can you tell us a bit more about what Hindus might believe?

Anushka Shree: Of course! There are lots of different beliefs and practices within Hinduism so not all Hindus will believe or do the same things. Many Hindus believe that the god Brahman created everything. But, unlike other religions, Brahman does not have just one form. He is sometimes shown as other gods, like Vishnu, Krishna, Rama or Shiva. But all of these different gods are actually just parts of Brahman.

Laura Dahl: That's really interesting. So, Hinduism has one supreme god, just like Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Do you have any holy books like these other religions do?

Anushka Shree: We have lots of different texts which are important to our religion and were written hundreds of years ago. The Vedas are a collection of hymns and the Ramayana is full of long poems about Rama and Sita. We also have stories in the Mahabharata and the Puranas. Our special holidays and rituals are mentioned in these texts – including Diwali.



Laura Dahl: What's Diwali?

Anushka Shree: Diwali is one of Hinduism's happiest holidays! It is celebrated by Sikhs and Jains as well as Hindus so it is a great time to get together as a community. The word Diwali comes from the word **deepavali**. This word is from an ancient language called Sanskrit. It means 'rows of lights'. It's no wonder then that Diwali is often known as the festival of lights!

Laura Dahl: Which sacred text is Diwali mentioned in?

Anushka Shree: Diwali dates back to ancient times in India and is mentioned in two of the Puranas. The lamps we use are mentioned in these texts and are said to represent parts of the sun.

Laura Dahl: What lamps do you use?

Anushka Shree: They are called Diya lamps. We put them in our homes, in shops, in public places... everywhere!

Laura Dahl: Why do you use so many?

Anushka Shree: We believe that lighting our Diya lamps will help Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, find her way into the places we live. We also believe that the light from the lamps shows that light will always win over darkness. In this way, good will always win over evil and hope will win over despair.

Laura Dahl: What a fantastic message. Stay tuned and join us after this break to find out more about Diwali.



Questions

1. Which of these is not why someone would follow Hinduism? Tick **one**.

- ☐ as their religion
- ☐ as their nationality
- ☐ as their culture
- ☐ as their ethnicity

2. Which god do Hindus believe created everything? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Vishnu
- ☐ Krishna
- ☐ Brahman
- ☐ Shiva

3. Find or copy two words or phrases from the text which show that Hinduism is an old religion.

4. What is the name of the interviewer in this text?

5. Approximately how many Hindus are there across the world?

6. Explain how Diya lamps symbolise positivity.

7. Stay tuned and join us after this break

Explain why you think this phrase is used in the text.

8. Explain how you know that Diwali has been happening for a long time.

Answers

1. Which of these is not why someone would follow Hinduism? Tick **one**.

- ☐ as their religion
- ☒ **as their nationality**
- ☐ as their culture
- ☐ as their ethnicity

2. Which god do Hindus believe created everything? Tick **one**.

- ☐ Vishnu
- ☐ Krishna
- ☒ **Brahman**
- ☐ Shiva

3. Find or copy two words or phrases from the text which show that Hinduism is an old religion.

Accept any two of the following: an ancient religion; practised for thousands of years; were written hundreds of years ago; Diwali dates back to ancient times in India.

4. What is the name of the interviewer in this text?

The name of the interviewer is Laura Dahl.

5. Approximately how many Hindus are there across the world?

There are approximately one billion Hindus across the world.

6. Explain how Diya lamps symbolise positivity.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Diya lamps symbolise positivity because Hindus believe that the light from the lamps shows that light will always win over darkness. In this way, good will always win over evil and hope will win over despair. This is a positive message.

7. Stay tuned and join us after this break

Explain why you think this phrase is used in the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that this phrase is used because the text is a transcript from a television show and TV shows have breaks for adverts.

8. Explain how you know that Diwali has been happening for a long time.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I know that Diwali has been happening for a long time because the text says that it dates back to ancient times in India. It is also mentioned in two of the Puranas which were written a very long time ago.