

**Topic**

Celebrating Diwali, festivals, special events

**Aims**

- Students will practise speaking skills for fluency.
- Students will understand a text about Diwali and answer questions to demonstrate comprehension.
- Students will develop skills for describing an event.

**Age group**

12 - 17

**Level**

B1 +

**Time**

60 – 90 minutes

**Materials**

1. Diwali Student Worksheet
2. Internet links: <http://www.diwali.co.uk/> - an excellent site giving load of information about Diwali

**Introduction**

These materials focus on the topic of festivals. Students will read a short text about Diwali and then complete a series of comprehension tasks.

Students will then work to recreate the text using prompts and then retell the legend of Diwali to their classmates.

Finally, students will have an opportunity to make notes about a festival of their choice and tell the class about it.

**Procedure**

<b>1. Word association</b>	<p>Write the following words on the board: food – festival – parties.</p> <p>Ask students to talk about what they associate with these words. Give students some time to talk about their associations and then ask for feedback, writing any new vocabulary on the board.</p>
<b>2. Speaking</b>	<p>Ask students if there are any festivals celebrated in the Autumn in their region or town?</p>
<b>3. Reading – matching activity</b>	<p>Write the following paragraph headings on the board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebrations in the temple</li> <li>• Diwali and families</li> <li>• Celebrations in Leicester</li> <li>• The meaning of Diwali</li> <li>• The legend associated with Diwali</li> </ul> <p>Students then read the text on the worksheet individually and do task 1 - matching each heading to a paragraph. Then compare answers in pairs.</p> <p>Conduct feedback and then ask students to answer the 3 comprehension questions in pairs.</p>
<b>4. After-reading (optional)</b>	<p>Tell students to look at the ‘after-reading tasks’ on the worksheet.</p> <p><i>Important. This task is suited to <b>lower levels</b> but can be skipped with higher level classes.</i></p> <p>A. Describe a typical Diwali day for Erisha.</p> <p>This can be done with the whole class, paying attention to their use of the Present Simple. Encourage use of linking words/phrases like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>after that</i></li> <li>– <i>and then</i></li> <li>– <i>next</i></li> <li>– <i>before –ing; after –ing</i></li> <li>– <i>finally</i></li> </ul> <p>B. Three things people do to celebrate Diwali. Students work in pairs to answer the questions.</p> <p>C. Ticking the best answer. Students work in pairs to answer the questions. Ask them to justify their choices.</p>

<b>5. Re-telling the legend</b>	<p>With higher level students, ask them to work in pairs and use the words in the table to reconstruct the legend of Diwali.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students work in pairs first to retell the legend. This should be a speaking activity.</li> <li>2. Ask for a volunteer to retell the legend to the class, encouraging other students to give information that may be missed.</li> </ol> <p>With lower level classes, you can do this activity with the whole class together.</p>
<b>6. Personalisation and extension</b>	<p>This final activity asks students to think about festivals or special days in their context.</p> <p>Either alone or, in pairs or small groups, ask students to identify a special day or festival that they have enough knowledge of to talk about.</p> <p>Students should make notes in preparation for a short presentation, focusing on the things in the list.</p> <p>Students then present their festival or special event to the rest of the class.</p> <p><u>Variations</u></p> <p>Ask students to research information about a festival or special event from a different country</p> <p>Ask students to design their own festival or special event using the items in the list to structure their idea.</p>

**Contributed by**
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