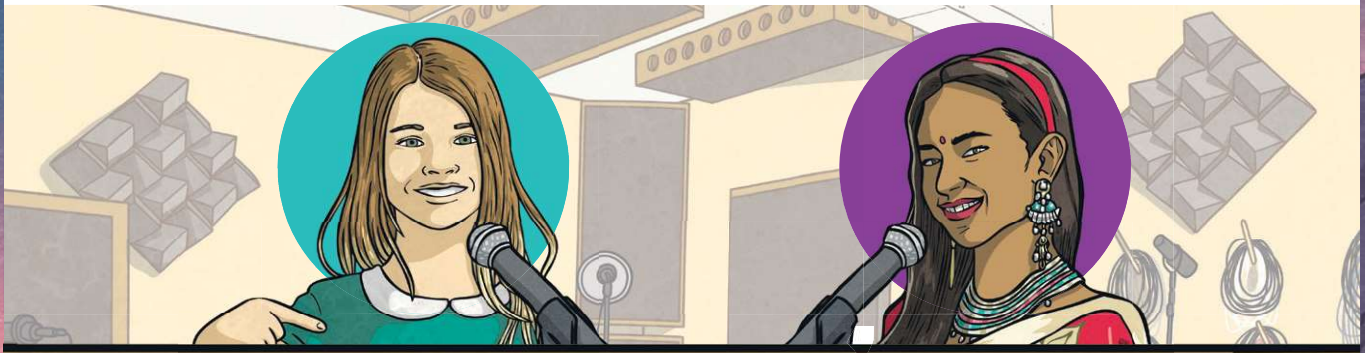


All About Diwali Radio Show



Laura Dahl

Anushka Shree

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 the most ancient texts. 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 find her way into our homes. She is the goddess of wealth. 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 from 1-5 to show the order in which they occur 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. What is the name of the interviewer in this text?

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.
