



### Prior Knowledge

What are the main features and themes of the Diwali story?

Diwali is an Autumn festival, sometimes called the festival of **lights**.

During Diwali, Hindus retell the story of **Rama** and **Sita**.

The story of **Rama** has the theme of good winning over evil.

Houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called **divas**. People enjoy fireworks and sweets. Food is made and gifts are given.

### New Knowledge

What are the main features and functions of a local mandir?

**Mandirs** should have:

#### **Shoe Rack**

A place to store shoes before entering the mandir.

#### **Murti**

A murti is a statue of God, or a god or goddess.



aum



murti

#### **Main Shrine**

This is the heart of the temple to represent the heart of the worshipper. It is usually at the front of the temple.

#### **Aum**

This is the Hindu symbol. You may see this if you are ever visiting a Hindu temple



puja

bell

offerings

main shrine

#### **Vedas**

These are the ancient Hindu texts. They are kept safe in a special case.

#### **Bell**

Worshippers ring the bell before entering to let God know they have arrived.

**What happens during the festival of Durga Puja, Navratri and what is its significance?**

Navratri lasts for nine days and celebrates good triumphing over evil. During the festival, three goddesses are worshipped including Durga.

Some Hindus do charity work.

Colourful clothes are worn on each day of the festival.

Oil lamps burn.

It is believed to be a good time to begin new ventures.

The tenth day of the festival is called Dasera. It marks the victory of good over evil. It can also represent the motherhood of God.