

Deepavali

A Starter Guide for
Primary School Students



INDIAN
HERITAGE
CENTRE

இந்திய
மரபுடைமை
நிலையம்

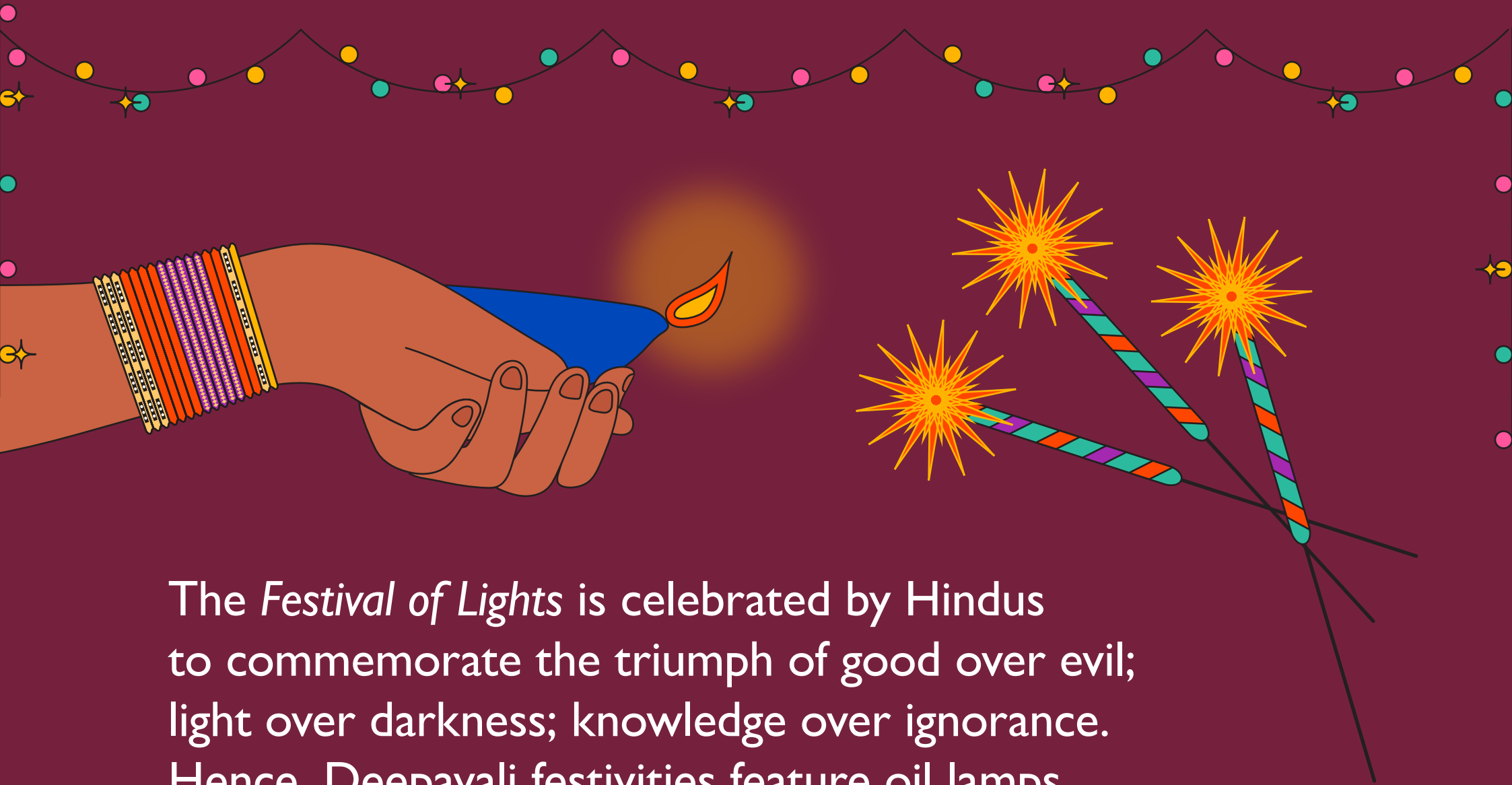
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What is Deepavali?



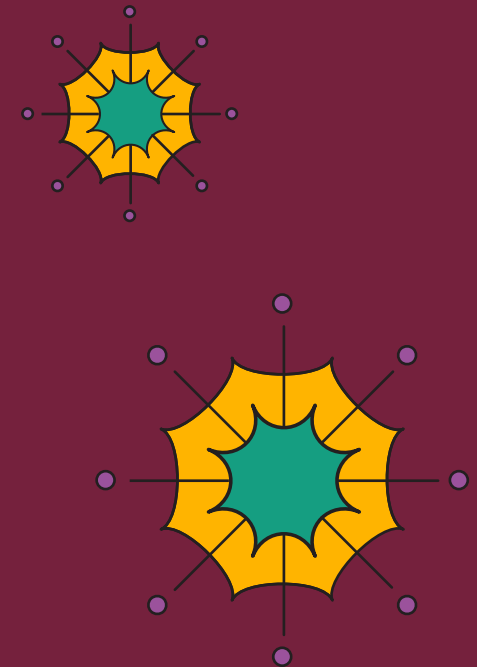
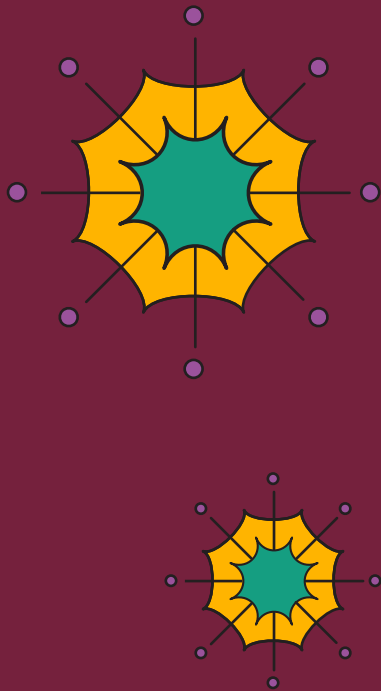
02 What is Deepavali?



The *Festival of Lights* is celebrated by Hindus to commemorate the triumph of good over evil; light over darkness; knowledge over ignorance. Hence, Deepavali festivities feature oil lamps, colourful light displays and sparklers.

03 What is Deepavali?

Deepavali falls on the new moon day in the solar month known as *Aippassi* or *Ashvin* in the Hindu calendar. This is typically between 15 October to 15 November in the Gregorian calendar.



Why is Deepavali celebrated?



05 Why is Deepavali celebrated?

The Defeat of Narakasura

Deepavali commemorates the day Lord Krishna slayed the tyrannical demon, Narakasura.

The people welcomed the victorious Lord Krishna with lighted lamps illuminating the entire city.

Since then, Deepavali has been celebrated with lights and oil lamps.

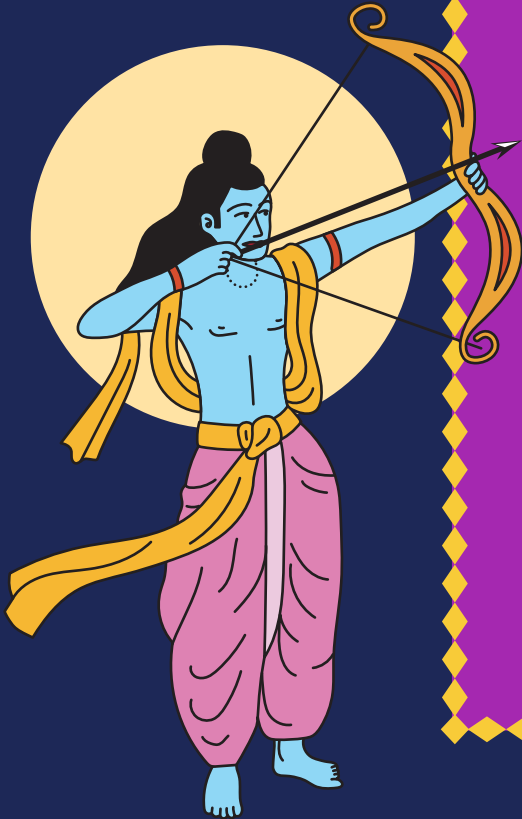


06 Why is Deepavali celebrated?

The Defeat of Ravana

According to the Ramayana epic, Deepavali also marks the return of Lord Rama, Sita and Lakshmana after their 14-year exile and their defeat of the demon king, Ravana.

People celebrated this occasion by lighting up oil lamps to illuminate the way and welcome their king, hence inspiring the tradition of lighting lamps on Deepavali.



Craft Activity

Salt Dough Lamp



08 Craft Activity

Deepavali is known as the *Festival of Lights*.
Light up your homes with your very own
Salt Dough Lamp.



09 Materials

Salt Dough

- 1 cup plain flour*
- ½ cup table salt
- ½ cup water
- Measuring cup
- Medium mixing bowl
- Whisk or spoon
- Parchment paper/silicone baking mat
- Baking tray

**Note: Do not use self-rising flour – it will cause the oil lamp to bubble or rise while baking.*



Decorations

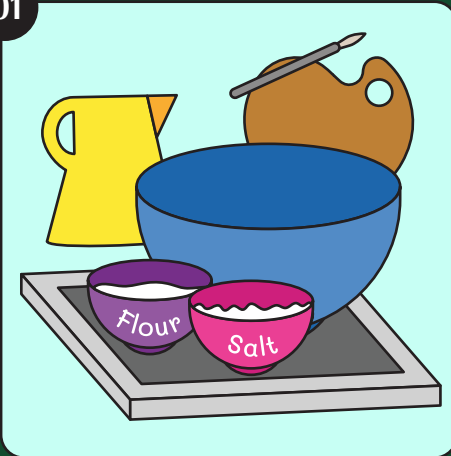
- Acrylic or nontoxic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Water
- Bowl or cup for water
- Plate or palette
- Cloth rag or paper towels
- Tea light or flameless candle

Optional Decorations

- Glue
- Glitter
- Sequins

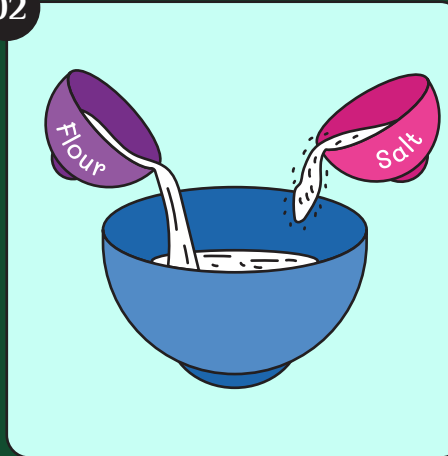
10 Instructions

01



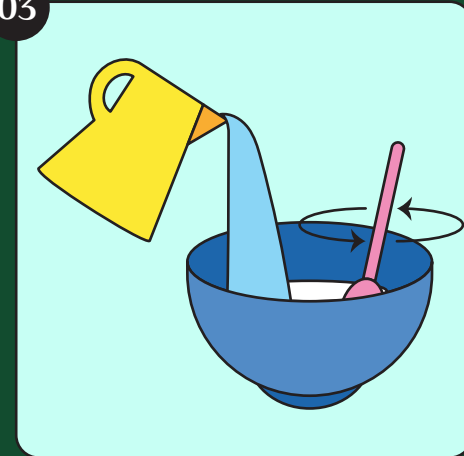
Gather your materials in one place.

02



In a mixing bowl, stir flour and salt together.

03



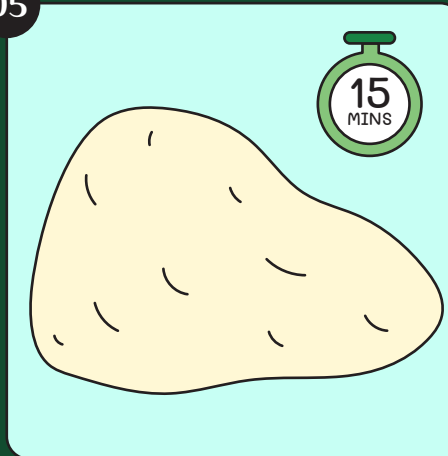
Slowly add water while stirring flour and salt mixture until it is fully combined and smooth.

04



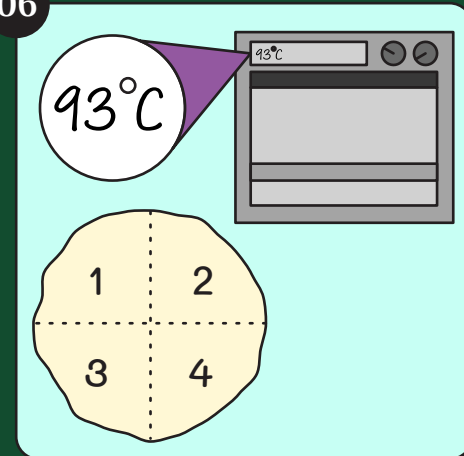
Remove the dough from the mixing bowl and knead it for 5 minutes.

05



Let the dough rest for 15 minutes.
Tip: Add a little flour if the dough is too sticky or a few drops of water if it is too dry.

06

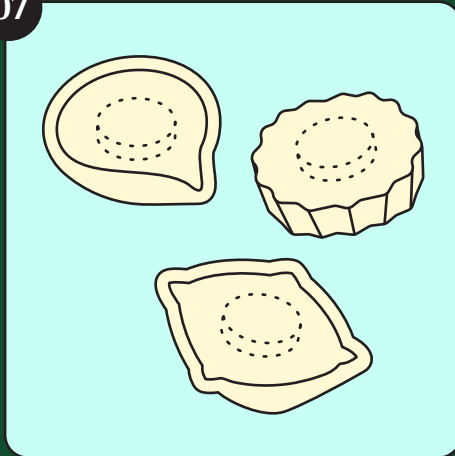


Preheat oven to 93 degree Celsius.
Split your dough into 3-4 sections.

11

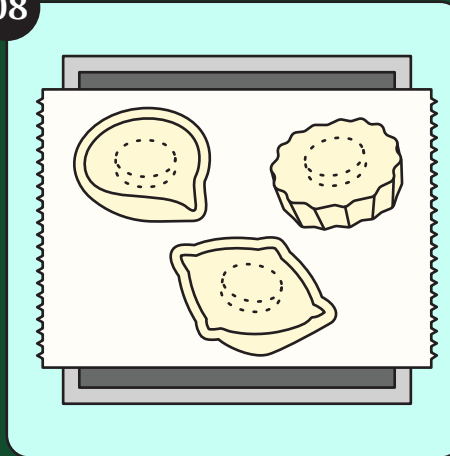
Instructions

07



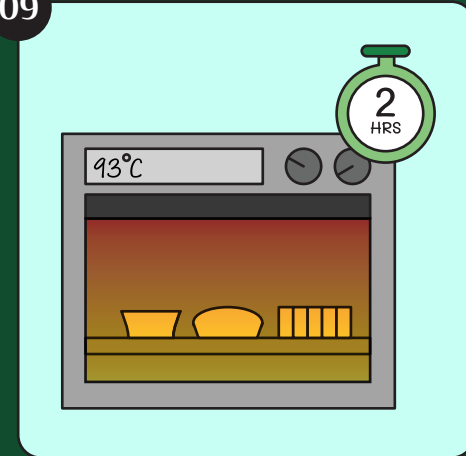
Shape the dough into oil lamps.
Leave a space for your candles.

08



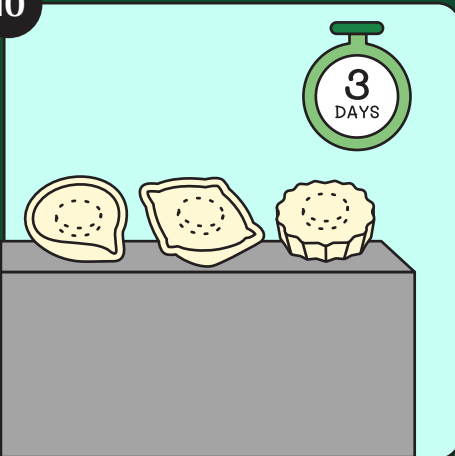
Place on parchment paper or silicone
baking mat on a baking sheet.

09



Bake in the preheated* oven for 2 hours,
until dry and hard. Allow to cool completely.
**Adult supervision needed.*

10



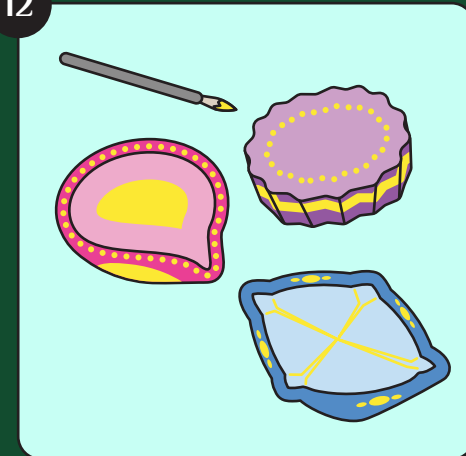
You can let your oil lamps air dry for a couple
of days instead of baking them in an oven.

11



Paint your oil lamps.
Let them completely dry.

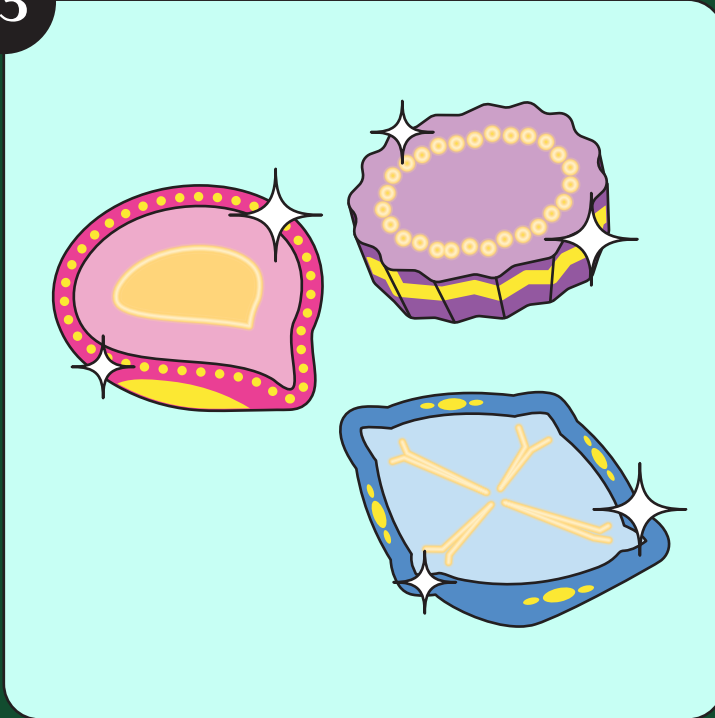
12



Try painting designs onto your oil
lamps using a fine detail paintbrush.

12 Instructions

13



You can also glue glitter and sequins to your oil lamps for additional sparkle.

14



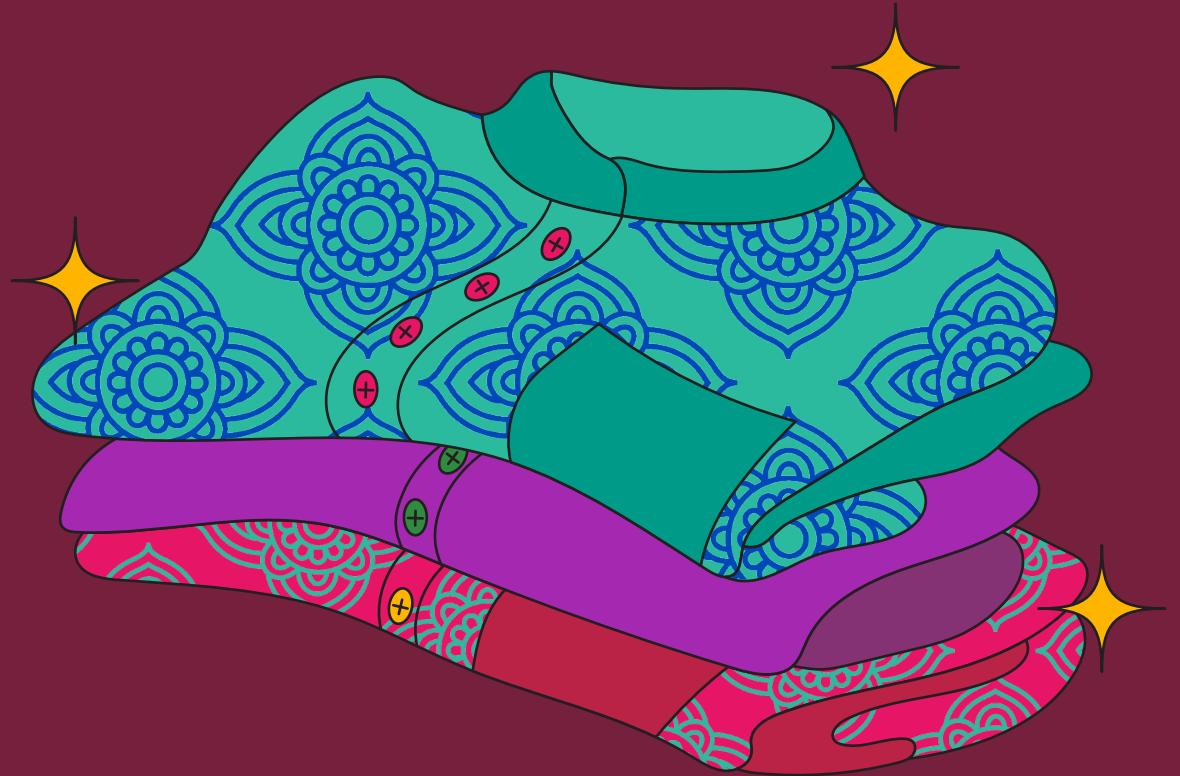
Light your oil lamps and place around your home for Deepavali!

How is Deepavali celebrated?



14 How is Deepavali celebrated?

The day begins with an oil bath, dressing up with new clothes, prayers at home or temple, visiting with family and seeking blessings from elders.



Craft Activity

Deepavali Gift Bag



16 Craft Activity

Make your own little bag to bring along for your festive visiting!

Materials

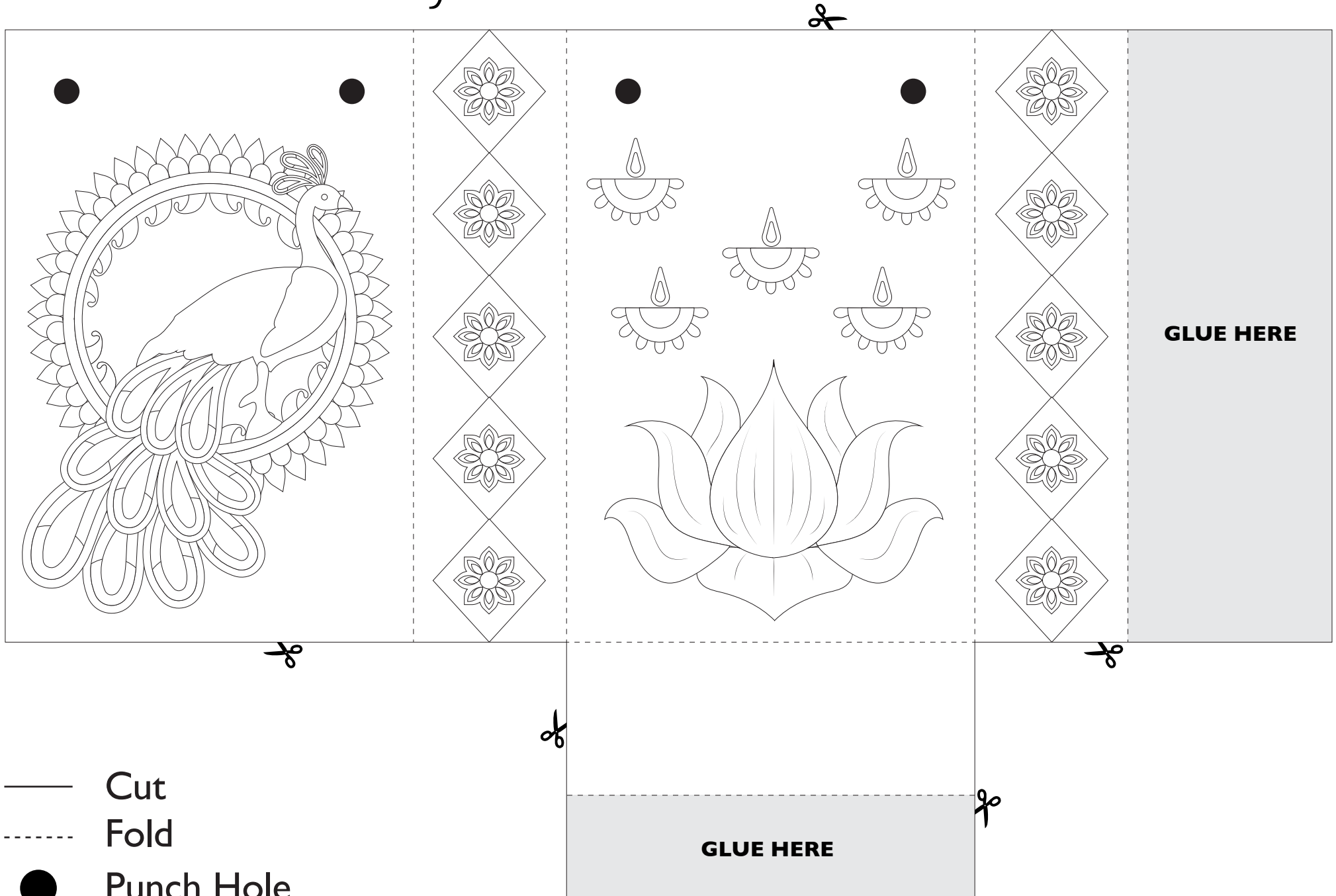
- Colouring Materials
- Scissors
- Glue
- String or Ribbon

Instructions

1. Colour the artwork.
2. Cut out according to the lines carefully.
3. Glue the edges accordingly.
4. Punch holes on marked areas.
5. Tie string or ribbon through holes.
6. Bring your bag out for visiting!



17 Craft Activity



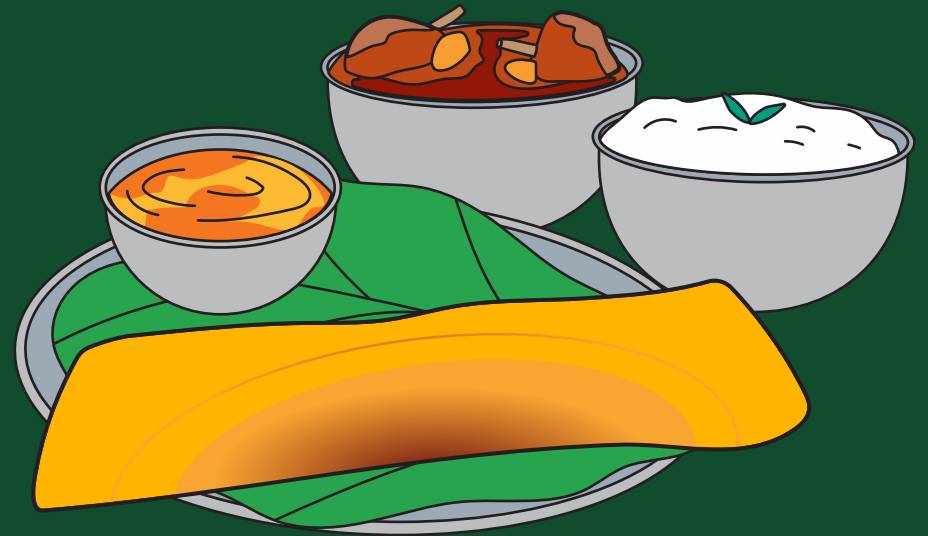
What is eaten during Deepavali?



19 What is eaten during Deepavali?

The day is filled with sweets, snacks and shared feasts!

During Deepavali, many Singaporean Tamil Hindu families enjoy homemade *thosai* or *appam jala*, with chicken or mutton curry for breakfast.



20 What is eaten during Deepavali?



Other popular snacks eaten in Singaporean households include *murukku*, pineapple tarts and an assortment of *kueh*.

Craft Activity

Greeting Cards



22 Craft Activity

Design your own Deepavali greeting card for your family and friends.

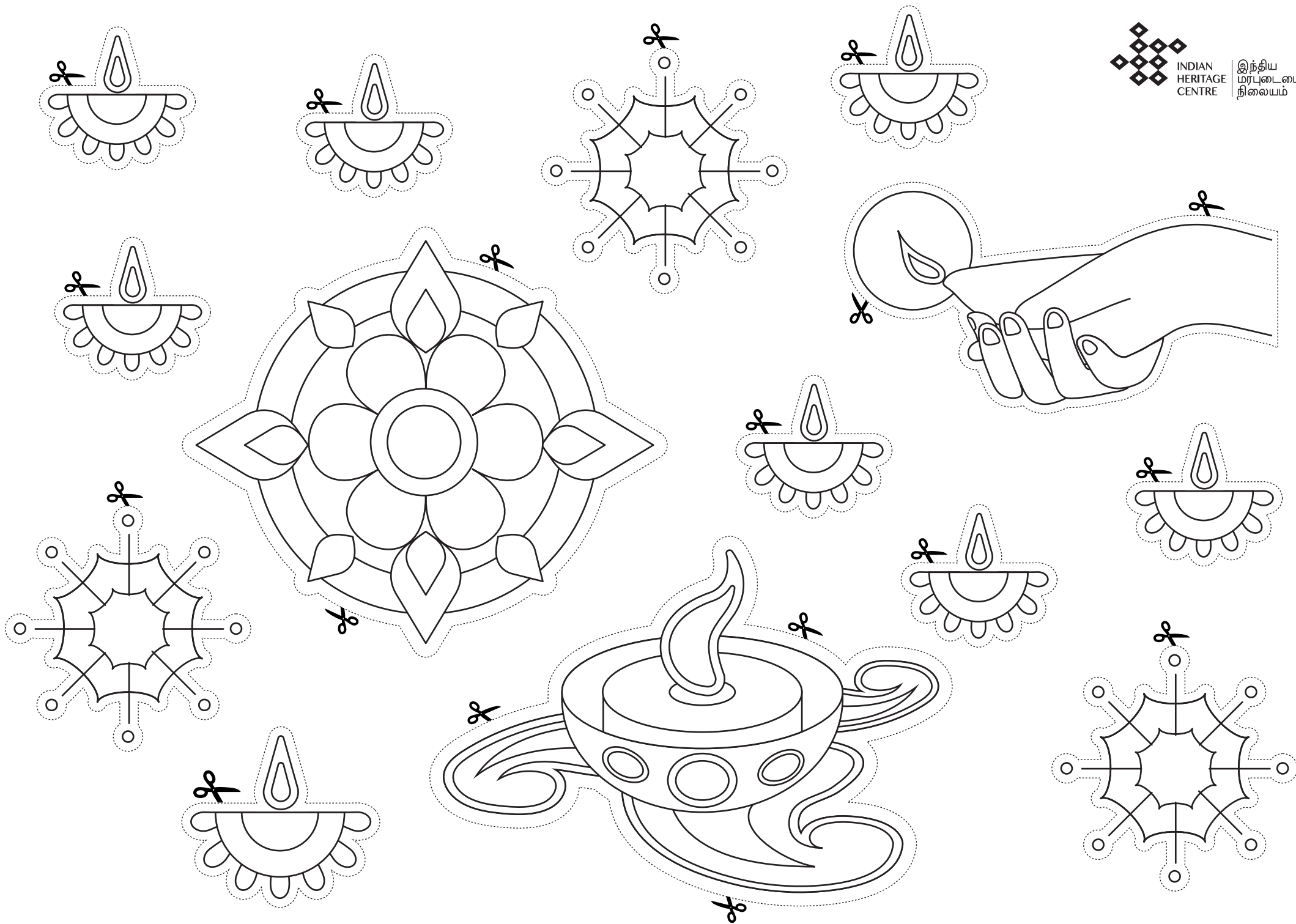
Materials

- Drawing materials
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paper

Instructions

1. Colour the artwork.
2. Cut out according to the lines carefully.
3. Paste the artwork onto a piece of paper.
4. Write your messages and gift them!





How do you prepare for Deepavali?



25 How do you prepare for Deepavali?

Preparations for Deepavali begin about a month before the actual day.

The home is cleaned, new clothes are purchased and festive sweets and savoury snacks are prepared.

The entrances of homes are decorated with *kolam/rangoli* which are multi-coloured floor decorations made from coloured rice powder and/or rice grains.



Activity

Word Search



27 Word Search

Find all the items that will help you prepare for Deepavali!

1. Kolam
2. Oil Bath
3. New Clothes
4. Clean Home
5. Sparklers
6. Oil Lamp
7. Murukku
8. Briyani
9. Family Visits
10. Prayers

P	O	T	T	S	L	F	Z	S	N	B	S	I	G
N	Z	D	D	Q	P	P	B	P	U	A	M	F	F
U	V	T	W	B	A	R	B	A	Z	Z	W	V	R
O	V	C	O	H	R	A	B	R	I	Y	A	N	I
P	Q	L	I	V	T	Y	L	K	O	M	B	H	H
O	A	E	L	O	R	E	U	L	I	U	K	C	K
K	Q	A	L	Q	M	R	Y	E	I	R	O	G	D
L	I	N	A	B	D	S	I	S	D	U	L	G	O
J	F	H	M	G	Q	U	H	G	X	K	A	Y	A
U	Z	O	P	O	J	P	E	O	F	K	M	U	F
Z	R	M	Z	Y	R	E	J	J	R	U	Y	L	A
K	H	E	P	P	F	O	I	L	B	A	T	H	H
P	V	S	Q	N	E	W	C	L	O	T	H	E	S
F	A	M	I	L	Y	V	I	S	I	T	S	A	S

For more Deepavali educational resources, visit our page at:
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Thank You!

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