

## HOW AND WHY DO WE CELEBRATE SPECIAL AND SACRED TIMES?

Curriculum Subject - RE

### Summary

This investigation will help you to learn from different religious and spiritual ways of life about Christmas and Diwali.

There is a focus on the significance of art, drama and music to believers, which is explored using story.



### Facts

1. Christmas is a Christian festival celebrating the birth (nativity) of Jesus. It occurs on 25th December each year and is one of the most important festivals in the Christian calendar.
2. Advent is the first season of the church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays.
3. Religious folk songs or hymns, particularly ones associated with Christmas, are known as carols and are still sung by Christians around the world.
4. Diwali is a Hindu festival, often known as the Festival of Light. Diwali falls in either October or November each year, depending upon the cycle of the moon.
5. Diwali celebrates the story of Rama and Sita, who, with the help of the monkey king, Hanuman, defeated the demon king, Ravana, to return home safely.
6. During Diwali, Hindus use traditional Indian decorations and patterns, known as rangoli patterns. They also light diya lamps to remind them of the lamps that guided Rama and Sita home.

### Questions We Will Ask

1. What do you celebrate and why?
2. What happened at Christmas and how does it make people feel?
3. How do Christians celebrate Christmas?
4. What do Hindus celebrate at Diwali?
5. How do Hindus celebrate Diwali?

### Key Vocabulary

**Celebrations** - Christmas, Diwali

**Related to the Christmas story** - Advent, Nativity, Carols

**Related to Diwali** - Rama and Sita, Diya lamp, Rangoli