

Chalk, Lights and Sweets

Cowy: I'm using chalk to finish making all the outlines.

Cowy: It's a big, circle design. I just need to do one more squiggle.

Cowy: ..and one more flower.

Cowy: There!

Cowy: Now it needs some color! Turquoise for the petals.

Cowy: And yellow for the squiggles.

Elliot: Hi Cowy, whatcha doing?

Cowy: I'm coloring in this big design! It needs LOTS of chalk.

Elliot: Can I help?

Cowy: Sure! But not so fast!

Cowy: Elliot! You got footprints all over my design! I'll have to fix that.

Elliot: Sorry, Cowy.

Cowy: It's ok. Elliot. Here, you can help me color in all the dots purple.

Welcome to Storytime by Lingokids - where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning. In many parts of the world, people are busily preparing for a wonderful celebration that lasts 5 days. But what kind of celebration IS it? Let's find out!

Lisa: Oh hi Cowy and Elliot. Cool chalk drawing!

Elliot: Thanks!

Cowy: But it's not JUST a drawing.

Lisa: It's not?

Cowy: Nope. It's a goalie.

Lisa: Huh?

Narr: I think you mean RANgoli.

Cowy: Oops. That IS what I meant. It's a rangoli.

Lisa: I still don't get it.

Cowy: My friend Arjun showed me! His family is from a country called India.

Narr: Rangoli is a type of colorful ART from India! It uses patterns and designs to decorate the ground.

Cowy: Yep!

Narr: That's right Billy! Rangolis don't have to be chalk. They can also be made of sand,
Narr: flower petals,

Narr: or even rice powder!

Narr: Rangoli designs are passed down from parents and grandparents to their children.
That means families make the same design over generations!

Elliot: What do the rangoli designs look like?

Narr: They can look a lot of different ways! Some have characters from Indian stories.
Others have squares, circles and diamonds repeating in a pattern.

Lisa: Cool!

Narr: It's also common to put birds and flowers in the designs.

Lisa: Wow, this is amazing! A brand new kind of art that we never knew about! Do they
always have footprints in them?

Cowy: No. That was just Elliot. I have to fix it.

Elliot: Let's make rangoli art every day!

Cowy: Well, it's not FOR every day. It's for Diwali!

Lisa: Di-what?

Cowy: Diwali!

Narr: Correct, Billy, Diwali is a festival! And an important one in India and many other
countries.

Narr: People call Diwali the Festival of Lights. It's a time to celebrate the good things in
the world and invite more light into our lives.

Kids: Wow.

Lisa: I can't believe it! Diwali. A BRAND NEW holiday!

Narr: Lisa. Diwali is not a brand new holiday. It's actually quite old.

Lisa: Well I've never heard of it before!

Narr: Just because YOU've never heard of it does not mean it is new.

Lisa: Huh! I never thought of that!

Narr: Diwali, in fact, is extremely old. Historians think it started 2,500 years ago!

Kids: Whoa!

Elliot: Is it a fun holiday, like Halloween?

Narr: Yes, I think it is fun. In India, the celebration spills into the streets and lights up the night!

Narr: It's a time for art, family and friends.

Narr: There are fireworks,

Narr: many little candles,

Narr: and delicious things to eat.

Narr: Bright clothes, bright art and bright decorations are everywhere. It's colorful!

Cowy: I love colorful things!

Lisa: That sounds so fun! I would like to visit India to celebrate Diwali.

Elliot and Cowy: Me too!

Elliot: Too bad we can't have Diwali HERE.

Lisa: Yeah.

Cowy: Oh well.

Cowy: Oh hi, Arjun!

Arjun: Hey, Cowy! Hi, everyone! You CAN have Diwali here!

Kids: Really??

Cowy: How?

Arjun: You just need a few things. First, lights. In India we use tiny lanterns called diyas. They twinkle and fill the streets with little dots of light.

Arjun: But you could use something else!

Lisa: Maybe these twinkle string lights?

Kids: Yeah!

Arjun: For Diwali, you also need a clean room.

Elliot: A clean room? Why?

Arjun: They say a fresh, bright room brings a fresh, bright start.

Lisa: Here's a mop!

Elliot: And a vacuum.

Elliot: Huh, having a clean room really DOES make things fresh and bright!

Arjun: Finally, you need delicious treats to share! In my family we make a dessert called gulab jamun. It's fried balls of dough with syrup.

Arjun: But you could use a different dessert!

Cowy: How about these chocolate chip cookies?

Kids: Yeah!

Lisa: Let's see if we have everything we need to celebrate Diwali. Lights?

Cowy: Check!

Lisa: Cleaning?

Elliot: Check!

Lisa: Delicious treats to share?

Cowy: Check!

Lisa: Rangoli art.

Cowy: Check!

Lisa: Now what?

Arjun: Now hang out with your friends and have fun!

Lisa: We're good at that!

Cowy: Happy Diwali!

Arjun: Wow, Cowy, your rangoli is beautiful. I think it would fit right in in India. I love the footprints going across it.

Cowy: Thanks!

Elliot: I helped with the footprints!

Lingokids listeners, thanks for exploring Diwali with us! We learned about some lovely traditions for the Festival of Lights, like making rangoli art, putting lights out, cleaning up and sharing sweets. And we learned that you can still celebrate Diwali, even when you're far from home.