

Celebrations Around the World — Festivals of Light

Base Sheet

Activity Sheet

The child explores how different cultures celebrate with light: Diwali (India), Hanukkah (Jewish), Lantern Festival (China), and Saint Lucia Day (Scandinavia). This cultural study reveals the universal human attraction to light as a symbol of hope and joy.

What You Need:

- Pictures of Diwali, Hanukkah, Lantern Festival, Saint Lucia Day
- Globe to locate each culture
- Construction paper and scissors (for paper lantern craft)
- Crayons
- Battery-operated tea light (optional, for safe demonstration)

Steps:

1. 'People all around the world celebrate with LIGHT! Light means hope, happiness, and new beginnings. Let's learn about festivals of light from different cultures.'
2. Diwali: 'In India, families light thousands of small oil lamps called diyas. The whole country glows! Diwali means the triumph of light over darkness.'
3. Hanukkah: 'Jewish families light the menorah — one candle each night for 8 nights, remembering a miracle of oil that lasted 8 days.'
4. Lantern Festival: 'In China, beautiful paper lanterns are released into the sky, celebrating the end of the New Year celebrations.'
5. Saint Lucia Day: 'In Sweden, a girl wears a crown of candles and brings light to the dark winter morning.'
6. What do ALL these celebrations have in common? Light! Why do you think light is so important to people?'
7. Child creates their own paper lantern or draws a festival of light scene.

Work Space:

