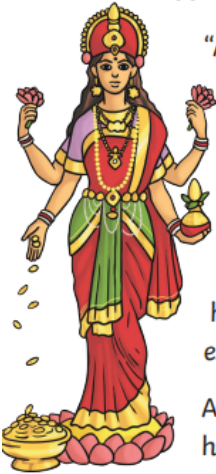


Tuesday

Task 1 - Read the story of Diwali and create a 'To-do List' to help a person of that faith prepare.

The story of Diwali - Saturday 14 November this year

With one final sweep of his broom, Vihaan looked around him to see that the room was looking much cleaner and tidier.



"Anika, how are you getting on in the kitchen?" he called through to his sister.

"Almost done," she replied, "I think we are almost ready for the celebrations to begin. Why do we have to do all this cleaning though? It's only going to be untidy again after Diwali!"

"It's important that we clean the dust and darkness from the house so we can welcome the new year and a new start," Vihaan explained.

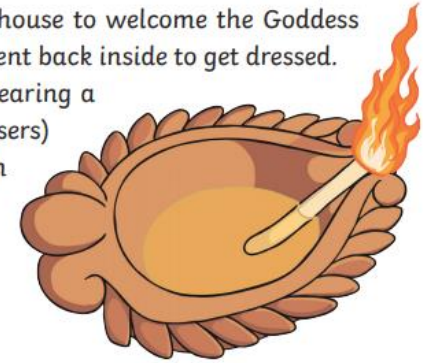
At that moment, Mum came in and told Vihaan and Anika to head to bed as they'd have to be up early in the morning ready to exchange gifts and welcome the Goddess Lakshmi into their home. While they finished the cleaning, she had been busy decorating the house and garden with coloured rice called Rangoli patterns.

Rushing into her brother's bedroom at 6.30am the next morning, Anika was full of excitement about the day ahead.

"Wake up, Vihaan! Come on, we've got to put the lights outside ready for Lakshmi!" she shook him awake hastily, "What are they called again?"

"Diyas," mumbled Vihaan from under his duvet, "they're called diyas."

Reluctantly, he pulled himself out of bed and went with his sister to place the diya lamps all around the outside of the house to welcome the Goddess Lakshmi. Once they were all lit, the children went back inside to get dressed. Mum was wearing her finest sari, Dad was wearing a kurta and dhoti (traditional tunic and trousers) and the children's clothes were ready for them to put on quickly.



“Oh, I do love all these beautiful colours and patterns!” exclaimed Anika.

Settling down together to say their prayers, the family shared gifts of sweets and fruit with each other.

Stepping out in their colourful clothes, the family were joined by friends and neighbours all heading to the temple to give thanks for the past year, receive forgiveness for wrongdoings and look forward to a joyful new year. The rest of the day passed by in a whirl of taking gifts to friends, family and people in need, eating favourite foods, receiving blessings and plenty of music!



“Gosh, I’m so tired,” yawned Vihaan, “this is more exhausting than yesterday’s cleaning!”

“But the best bit is still to come! You can’t go to bed yet!” Anika said, “Tell him, Dad, why do we have the fireworks?”

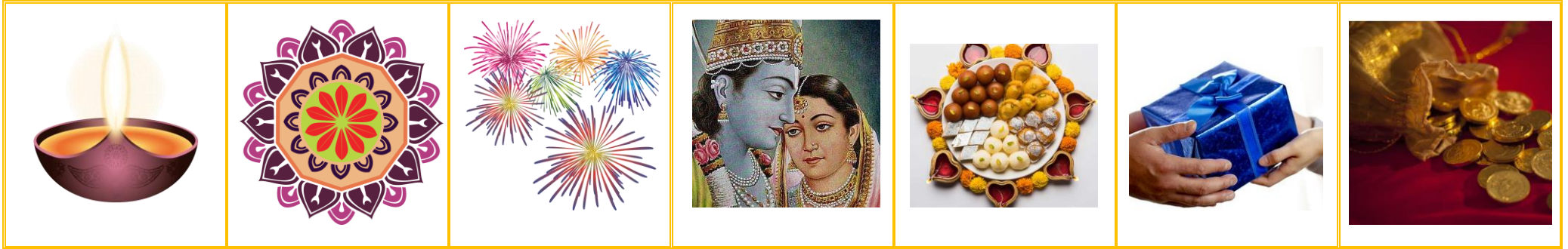
Dad explained that the celebrations are about good and light sweeping aside evil and darkness just like Rama rescues Sita from the demon Ravana with the help of Hanuman.

“And the fireworks remind us of why we are celebrating. They keep the skies around our homes full of light and welcome the Goddess Lakshmi,” Vihaan answered.

“They really are spectacular,” gasped Anika, “but do you think I’ll sleep well tonight”.



Task 2. Match the symbols to their meanings - you can write the information yourself or cut and sort the written meanings (they aren't in the right order).



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Diya lamp	Rangoli pattern in front of the door	Fireworks	The story of Rama and Sita	Sweets - Mithai	Giving gifts	Coins
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Be present in the moment - mindfulness	Celebrating light defeating darkness	A pure offering to the Gods	Wealth and prosperity	A story about good versus evil - a symbol of hope	Light versus darkness - a symbol of hope	Sharing blessings and love through giving gifts
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Wednesday

Task 1 - Read the information about Christmas in Brazil and create a 'To-do List' to help a person of that faith prepare.

Christmas in Brazil

Carolling - "Noite Feliz" ("Silent Night") is a popular song in Brazil.

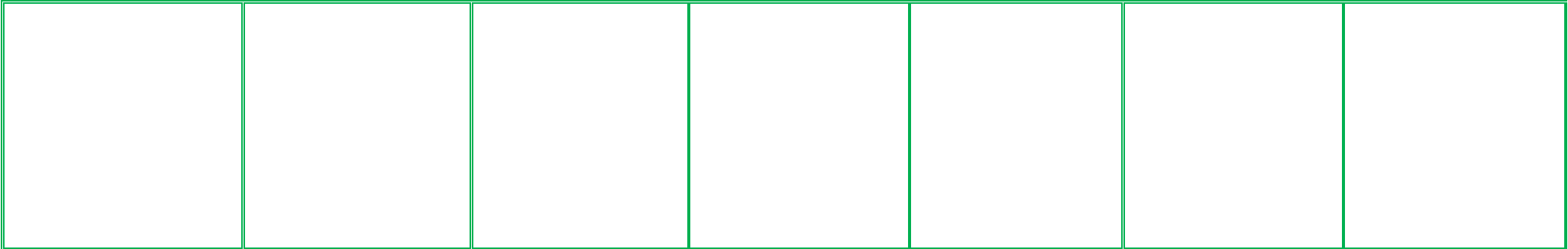
On Christmas Eve, thousands of devout Catholics attend the "Missa do Galo" or Midnight Mass. After the Missa do Gallo, there are often big firework displays and in large towns and cities there are huge Christmas tree shaped displays of electric lights.

People re-create the Nativity or Presepio in their homes and churches. This tradition dates back to Saint Francis of Assisi, who is credited with creating the first live nativity scene in 1223 as a way to make public worship of Jesus part of the Christmas season. The recreation of the birth of Christ, featuring people dressed as Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, was meant to bring the Bible to life for a population of believers who were not literate. Now people use figures and other props. Typically, the manger is kept empty and only filled with the baby Jesus on Christmas Day.

Sometimes children leave a sock near a window. If Papai Noel finds your sock, he'll exchange it for a present! Taking part in a 'Secret Santa', known as 'amigo secreto' (secret friend) is popular in Brazil at Christmas. It is traditional to give small gifts all through December using a pretend name (apelidos). On Christmas day, people reveal who their amigo secreto was!

Christmas plays called 'Os Pastores' (The Shepherds) are popular.

The food eaten in Brazil (especially in the south) during Christmas came from Germany, Italy, Portugal, Spain and other countries. The traditional Christmas dinner here includes roasted turkey, vegetables and fruits. A German "Stollen" or an Italian "Panetone" often find their way to a Christmas feast held in the southern parts of the country. A huge Christmas dinner menu includes turkey, ham, colored rice, and wonderful fresh vegetable and fruit dishes. The less fortunate have rice with chicken or with beans.





Candles and stars	Wreath	Candy cane	Ringing of bells	Giving of gifts	Christmas tree	Nativity scene or Presepio
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Announcing the birth of Jesus Christ	The three wise men brought gifts to the baby Jesus	The Star of Bethlehem that led the shepherds and wise men to Jesus	The shepherds flock. Jesus was a shepherd who guided his flock	The evergreen tree symbolises the value of life	A circular, never-ending symbol of eternal love and rebirth	A nativity scene centred around Jesus on his bed of straw.
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Thursday

Task 1 - Read the information on Hindu and Christian styles of worship then answer the questions.

Hindu Worship

Hindu worship is known as puja.



A shrine to Ganesh

Individual rather than communal

Hindu worship is mainly an individual act rather than a communal one, as it involves making personal offerings to a god or goddess. Worshippers repeat the names of their favourite gods and goddesses, and repeat mantras. Offerings include water, fruit, flowers and incense.

Worship at home

The majority of Hindu homes have a shrine where offerings are made and prayers are said. A shrine can be anything: a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues of gods or goddesses. Family members often worship together. Rituals should be performed three times a day.

Mantra - a word, phrase or sound that is repeated when praying.

Temple worship

At a Hindu temple, different parts of the building have a different spiritual or symbolic meaning.

- The central shrine is the heart of the worshipper
- The tower represents the flight of the spirit to heaven
- A priest may read, or more usually recite, the Vedas (religious texts) to the worshippers, but any "twice-born" Hindu can perform the reading of prayers and mantras.

Religious rites

Hindu religious rites are classified into three categories:

- Nitya
 - Nitya rituals are performed daily and consist in offerings made at the home shrine.
- Naimittika
 - Naimittika rituals are important but only occur at certain times during the year, such as celebrations of the festivals, thanksgiving and so on.
- Kamya
 - Kamya are rituals which are "optional" but highly desirable. Pilgrimage is one example.

Worship and pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is an important aspect of Hinduism. It's an undertaking to see and be seen by the gods.

Popular pilgrimage places are rivers, but temples, mountains, and other sacred sites in India are also destinations for pilgrimages, as sites where the gods may have appeared in the world.

1. Do Hindus mainly worship as individuals at home or together with others at the temple?

2. What is a shrine?

3. What do Hindus offer at a shrine?

4. How often should rituals be performed?

5. What does the tower of the temple symbolise?

6. What type of ritual is performed every day?

7. Give an example of a Kamya ritual.

Christian Worship



Christian worship involves praising God in music and speech, readings from scripture, prayers of various sorts, a sermon, and various holy ceremonies (often called sacraments) such as the Eucharist.

While worship is often thought of only as services in which Christians come together in a group, individual Christians can worship God on their own, and in any place.

Origins

Christian worship grew out of Jewish worship. Jesus Christ was a religious Jew who attended the synagogue and celebrated Jewish festivals, and his disciples were familiar with Jewish ritual and tradition.

The first big change from Judaism was making Sunday the holy day instead of Saturday. By doing this the day of Christian worship is the same as the day that Jesus rose from the dead.

The Eucharist and the Word

Church services on a Sunday divide into two general types: Eucharistic services and services of the Word. Both types of service will include hymns, readings and prayers.

The Eucharistic service is focussed on the act of Holy Communion.

Holy Communion - a rite where Christians eat bread and drink wine to remember the Last Supper. They believe the bread is the body and the wine is the blood of Christ.

The service of the Word does not include this rite, but instead features a much longer sermon, in which the preacher will discuss a religious text and its meanings.

Style

Different churches, even within the same denomination, will use very different styles of worship. Some will be elaborate, with a choir singing difficult music, others will hand the music over to the congregation, who sing simpler hymns or worship songs.

Some churches leave much of the action to the minister, while others encourage great congregational participation.

1. Can Christians worship on their own?

2. How do Christians worship God through praise?

3. What other religion did Christianity grow from?

4. When is the holy day and why did Christians choose this day?

5. What happens during Holy Communion and why?

Task 2 - Similarities and differences between Hindu and Christian styles of worship.

Similarities

Differences

How are Hindu and Catholic styles of worship similar?



How are Hindu and Catholic styles of worship different?

