



DIVALI HOLD YOUR OWN CELEBRATION

Knowledge and understanding of the world

Early Learning Goal

Investigate objects and materials by using all of their senses as appropriate.

Group Size

Six children at a time; whole group for a party.

Support and Extension

Younger children can make divas from clean egg-box sections covered in kitchen foil. Make candles from short rolls of corrugated cardboard with wicks in the centre. Challenge older children to make more intricate designs.

Further Ideas

- Cut out a diva from black paper. Attach flames of cellophane or tissue paper and fix to a window to catch the light.
- Play some party games involving mirrors. Have a forfeit of smiling or making a face at yourself in the mirror.
- Hang long strips of red, orange and yellow cellophane from the ceiling to twist in the air and catch the light.
- Paint a 'bindi' or 'tikka' on the children's faces using a coloured dot of face paint or a self-adhesive spot between the eyes. You can buy self-adhesive bindis at Indian shops.

DIVAS AND LIGHT

What you need

Clay or salt dough; paint; tea-lights or imitation candles; fairy lights; coloured card; gold and silver pens; red or orange crêpe paper; child scissors; display table with display board behind; small mirrors; sparkly clothes; gold and silver card; gold and silver self-adhesive stars; 'Divali dishes' photocopyable sheet on page 26.



Preparation

Plan your activities in advance so that you have one session where you make and paint the divas and prepare the party food, and a follow-up session where you make the display and head decorations.

What to do

- In one of your sessions, involve the children in making individual divas from clay or dough. Make little thumb pots, with a spout nipped in one side, big enough to hold a tea-light. Paint them and allow to dry.
- Help the children to cut diva shapes from the coloured card and decorate with the metallic pens. Add crêpe-paper flames.
- Make one very large diva for the centre of your display board and attach the smaller card divas around. Add a caption saying 'Happy Divali!'.
- Encourage the children to help you prepare some party food, using the recipes from the 'Divali dishes' photocopyable sheet.
- At a later session, make tiaras or crowns from gold and silver card, and invite the children to decorate them with gold and silver self-adhesive stars.
- Arrange the painted divas on the table in front of, and on, small mirrors to catch the light. Add fairy lights to the display.
- When you have made all the preparations, dress up in sparkly clothes and throw a party!