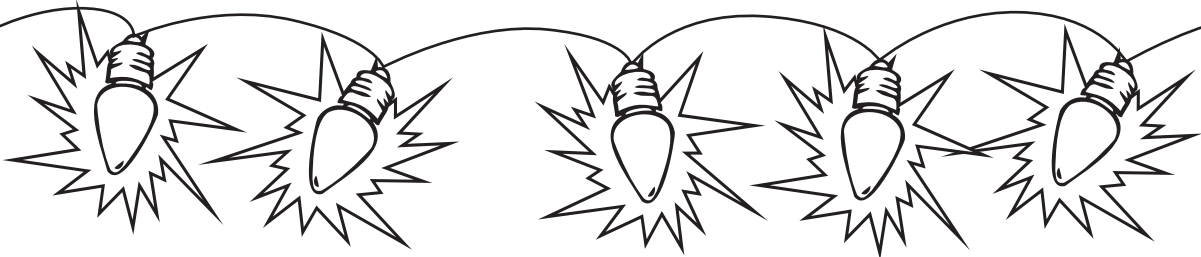


DIWALI



The **Diwali Festival** lasts for five days and each day has a special significance. The word Diwali means **rows of lamps** and it is also known as the **Festival of Light**. Diwali is a very ancient Indian festival and was originally celebrated after the harvest.

On the first day, Dhantrayodashi, people clean the front of their house and make beautiful designs on the ground called **rangoli** using colourful powders. Food is prepared and oil lamps are lit. Diwali has begun!

On the second day, Naraka Chaturdashi, people take an oil bath in the morning and at night light lamps and burn firecrackers.



On the third day, Laxmipujan, people worship Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth. This is an important day for businessmen who hope that the Goddess will bring them wealth in the coming year.



On the fourth day, Varshapratipada, people celebrate Krishna. He saved their ancestors by lifting a mountain with his finger and letting them shelter from the heavy rain. In some parts of

India the fourth day is also celebrated as Annakoot which means mountain of food. This is because gifts of food are presented to the Gods in the shape of a mountain piled before them.

On the fifth day, Bhayya-duj, brothers and sisters come together for a big meal. All brothers present a gift to their sisters. It is a big family day.

Things to Do:

Design a Diwali card. Fold an A4 sheet of paper in half to make your card. Try to use images associated with Diwali on the card and the words DIWALI GREETINGS. Here is a list of words that might help you in your design: fireworks, rangoli patterns, Krishna, sweets, flower garlands, food and lamps.

