

Memories of celebrating Diwali: Why it's a favorite holiday

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Diwali is a time when family, friends, and community members come together to celebrate light and hope. Diwali is an important holiday for South Asians, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, some Buddhists, as well as others who celebrate this important festival.

Each family will have different traditions and rituals to mark the Diwali festivities. Diwali is one of my favorite holidays filled with fond memories of laughter, delicious home-cooked Indian dishes, and being with family and friends.

Reflecting on my Diwali experiences made me curious as to ways others celebrate Diwali in the United States. [...]

Teens I spoke to shared that during Diwali they enjoy being with family and friends, and eating Indian sweets. Ezra age 14: "What I enjoy most about Diwali is getting dressed up. I rarely get to wear my Indian suit and Diwali is one of the only times I get to wear it." The teenagers value the importance of connection to others, and the rituals shared with their family and friends.

The adults I interviewed reminisced¹ on their childhood experiences and the Diwali rituals shared with their families. Harpreet remembered being with family during Diwali and the home-cooked dishes.

"On Diwali, my parents made sure to make lots of pakoras²! My late³ dad enjoyed cooking a lot and so he was thrilled whenever Diwali would fall on his day off," he said. For Harpreet making diva lamps⁴ and lighting them was also part of Diwali traditions in her home.

"I remember watching my mom make a diva out of dough and light it up in our prayer area every year. We would also make sure all of the lights inside our house were on and had divas in every room from our local Indian store." [...]

Each person I interviewed emphasized Diwali being filled with rituals and having a connection to others.

Ulash Thakore-Dunlap

1. remember the past – 2. deep-fried vegetables – 3. dead – 4. traditional oil lamps



There were about 3 million first-generation Indians in the USA in 2023. Diwali is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. Indians light lamps to symbolise protection from spiritual darkness.

Before reading...

1. What type of document is it ? Who's the author ? When was it written or published ? Is there any title ?
2. What is the document about ?

1st reading...

Take highlighters and focus on people – places – dates – elements of Indian culture

2nd reading...

Focus on each testimony : what is the person's opinion on the topic ?

3rd reading..

- Give a title to each paragraph
- What is the goal of the document ? What is the tone ?
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Now, following the method, **write an account** of the document

Writing :

Write about a celebration in your own culture that unites several generations

