

RVE Ideas from Lat Blaylock How do Hindus celebrate Divali? How do Muslims celebrate Eid Al Fitr? Investigating religious ways of life. 4-6 year olds

Background knowledge for the teacher

- Some great RVE lessons with the youngest pupils can be planned to enable the development of enriching knowledge of festivals and celebrations. Do recognise that young children are often deep thinkers, and aim to enable them to engage with the big ideas of different festivals, as well as the practices of the festivals in Britain today. This work is about both social and cultural aspects of Hindu and Muslim life and also the big religious ideas 'behind' the festivals.
- These RVE lessons for pupils in Reception classes or in Year 1 enable children to think and talk about festivals, how they are celebrated and what they mean. They will be able to notice that everyone enjoys festivals, but that different religions have unique (and internally diverse) ways of celebrating.

Context: both in the Reception Class or in Year 1, the context of RE as a time in school where big ideas and big questions are considered and all children's thoughts are welcome is established through this kind of work. RE draws attention to diversity and respect.

Essential Knowledge for the pupil

Substantive Knowledge. Children will learn that:

- Hindus love to retell the stories of Rama and Sita at Divali time.
- Hindus celebrate with lights, food, family times and fireworks. There are many symbols about the meanings of the festival: love, light and goodness win over hate, darkness and evil.
- In India and in Britain the festival is a little bit different.
- Muslims enjoy Eid Al Fitr because it celebrates the end of the month of fasting, Ramadan, when Muslims go without food all day for 28 days.
- Muslims enjoy an amazing meal among family and friends and thank God who gave the Message of the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad.
- In Britain and in Turkey the festival is a little bit different.
- Both Muslims and Hindus enjoy their religious celebrations, using food, prayers, symbols, family time and giving generously.

Disciplinary knowledge

- This work provides very simple starting points for using the methods of theology and sociology in RE. From the discipline of theology, we ask questions about religious belief: what beliefs are shown in these two festivals? From the discipline of sociology of religions, we ask questions about how religion makes a difference in our communities.

eResources.

Access all these resources at: www.natre.org.uk/bigquestionsbiganswers/

- Two Hindu children talk us through their Divali celebrations: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zmwmpv4>
- Dawud explains how Ramadan shows what Muslims believe. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zn6sb9q>
- Pupils beginning to learn about Hindus and Muslims can make simple connections between different religions. Ask questions like: are the two different religions similar? Can you say what is the same about...?
- Songs: see what you find on YouTube for Divali songs. Here's a simple starter. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkDHF-GRH_g Note that some Muslims don't use music for religious celebrations.

Prior Knowledge

In Reception RVE some pupils may bring prior learning from home. Talk about the 'big days' in their lives, especially ones that occur just once a year.

Assessment for 4-6s:

The Early Learning Goals (England, 2020) set some outcomes for this work for 4-5 year olds. These are adaptable for your setting in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland or in relation to your syllabus, and can be extended for 6 year olds.

Expected outcomes:

- Children answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their RVE experiences
- Children express themselves effectively, showing awareness of listeners' needs and using their RVE learning
- They develop their own narratives and explanations by connecting ideas or events from religious festivals
- They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and religious traditions
- They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through art and music.



Priya is a Hindu. She is 6.
She celebrates Divali

"Do you think light is stronger than darkness? I do. That is why my big day is called Divali. It is one of my favourite days of the year. Our family are Hindus. My grandpa came to live in Leicester from India when he was young, and we have big Divali parties in Leicester now. All my family come to visit.

We like to remember the story of Rama and Sita. There is an evil demon with ten heads in the story, who traps beautiful Sita. But she doesn't give up and at the end she and Rama escape and win.

We have little diya lamps to light. I am allowed to do this if I am careful and my dad helps me. But only grown ups light fireworks. Sometimes the fireworks are a bit scary because they are very noisy.

At divali time, we go out in the streets and join in watching the fireworks. Everyone has lots of food: my favourite is a sweet called chocolate barfi.

Grandpa tells us about what Divali was like when he was little in India. I asked him if it is better in Leicester, and he said 'Yes, because you are here.' He got me some new clothes for a Divali present.

My big day is called Eid Al Fitr, and it is one of my favourite days every year. Our religion is Islam: we are Muslims, and we worship Allah. We follow the teaching of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

We have five different ways to show our religion, called the Five Pillars and one of these is fasting. For one month every year Muslim grown-ups don't eat during the daytime. It is hard, but we share our money with people who are not so well off and we remember God and do extra prayers in the month – it's called Ramadan.

Imagine going without lunch every day for a month! I'm only 6, so I don't have to fast, but I will when I'm older. At the end of the month of Ramadan we have a festival called Eid Al Fitr which is special for us. It is the first lunch time meal for 28 days! Everyone sends cards that say 'Eid Mubarak' – 'Happy Eid'.

My grandma is from Turkey, and she always tells us what used to happen when she was a girl. She used to get sweets like baklava and Turkish delight. It is called the 'festival of sweets' in Turkey – 'Sakar Bayrami'. When she was a girl she used to go to all the houses in her street, dressed up in new clothes and wishing everyone 'Happy Bayrami'. She got sweets at every house!

Grandma still buys Turkish Delight at Eid today, and we all go to pray at the mosque, and we all enjoy our lunch a lot.



Omar is a Muslim, He is 5.
His 'big day' is Eid Al Fitr

A Big Day in My Life

Who joins in?

What is fun?

What's to eat?

Your favourite part?



Priya is a Hindu. She is 6.
She celebrates Divali.
She likes the story of Lakshmi

"My grandpa is a good story teller. At Divali, we always ask him to tell us about Lakshmi and the string of pearls. He knows this old story from when he was a little boy in India.

One day, a crow stole the queen's very expensive pearls, and flew away from the palace. The crow dropped the beautiful pearls, and they landed on the doorstep of a poor old washer woman. What do you think she did? She took the beautiful pearls, and went straight to the palace. She gave them back to the queen. The Queen was so grateful: she offered a reward. What do you think she chose? 'Please your majesty, may I be the first to light the lamps, on Divali night?' The king and queen said she could.

Why do you think she chose this? In the Hindu story, the goddess Lakshmi is generous. On Divali night, she flies over the country, looking for Divali lights. The washerwoman put out all the candles she could find. Goddess Lakshmi flew over the country, in the dark. No one had lit any lights. But at last she saw the washerwoman's Divali lights. She flew straight down to her door. The old washer woman was delighted. She gave Lakshmi a good welcome. The goddess felt so much at home with her that she promised her 7 years of blessings. A blessing is what makes you happy, or blessed. I like the story because it shows that the gods and goddesses care for us all, not just for kings or queens. When grandpa has told his story, then we always put our diva lamps out on Divali nights too and we pray for Lakshmi to give us blessings too.

My big day is called Eid Al Fitr, and it is one of my favourite days every year. Our religion is Islam: we are Muslims, and we worship Allah. We follow the teaching of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

My grandma is from Turkey, and she always tells us what used to happen when she was a girl. This year at Eid, she taught me how to make Baklava, which is a sweet from Turkey. We made so much that we could take a box to all our relations and friends when we visited them at Eid.

First you roll out the pastry, then you get butter and pistachio nuts and mix them up with honey. You make lots of layers of pastry, nuts, honey and butter. When it is cooking, grandma says we should do the washing up.

You are supposed to let the baklava cool down, but it is very nice when it is still warm. We pour some syrup over the top, and put it in the fridge. Everyone says my grandma's baklava tastes the best. They call it 'a taste of Turkey.'

Some Muslims at our mosque have different sweets at Eid, but they always like it if we share grandma's baklava. 'Happy Bayrami', they say.



Omar is a Muslim, He is 5.
His 'big day' is Eid Al Fitr
He likes baklava.