



THE RAINBOW SERPENT

THE RAINBOW SERPENT

The Rainbow Serpent appears in many **Dreaming** stories told by different Aboriginal groups. However, the Rainbow Serpent is usually a **Creation Being** and the **source** of life. The following is one of the many stories Aboriginal people tell about the Rainbow Serpent.



FACT!

In the Kakadu region in the Northern Territory, the Rainbow Serpent has many different names, such as *almudj* and *bolung*.

A Rainbow Serpent story

The world was cold and flat in the Dreaming. The Rainbow Serpent was sleeping underground. She had all of the animal tribes in her belly. They were waiting to be born.

At the right time, the Rainbow Serpent pushed up, calling to the animals in her belly to wake up. Then she spat out the land and made hills and mountains. She caused water to spill out over the land, making rivers and lakes. And she made all of the colours, the sun and fire.

◀ A rock art painting of the Rainbow Serpent in Ubirr, one of the most famous rock art galleries in Kakadu National Park.

Scan the code to link to a video about the Rainbow Serpent.



Members of the ►
Jawoyn people
perform a traditional
dance at Nitmiluk
National Park
in Katherine,
Northern Territory.



The Jawoyn Rainbow Serpent

According to the Jawoyn people, who **traditionally** live in the Katherine Gorge area in the Northern Territory, the Rainbow Serpent is also sleeping underground until she wakes up in the Dreaming. Then she travels around the land, using her body to make **tracks**. When she returns, she asks the frogs to come out, but they have bellies full of water and are very slow.

So the Rainbow Serpent tickles the frogs' bellies, which makes them laugh. As they laugh, the water flows out of their mouths and fills the tracks left behind by the serpent. This **creates** rivers and lakes and wakes up all of the animals and plants, who spread out over the land.

▼ Katherine Gorge,
Northern Territory



QUESTIONS



1. Why do you think there are different versions of the Rainbow Serpent story?
2. Dreaming stories are passed on to younger Aboriginal Australians to help them learn about their history. Think of a story from your own or another culture that teaches something about history. Retell this story to a partner.
3. There are many verbs used in the stories about the Rainbow Serpent because they are stories about creating. List five verbs found on the topic card.
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/s64y4yw>) to watch a video about the Rainbow Serpent. Why do you think the serpent is so important to Aboriginal people?
5. What characteristics and features does a serpent have that would have allowed it to carve out the rivers?
6. Fold a piece of paper into four to form a small book. Create a mini-picture story book about the Rainbow Serpent. You can choose either version of the story from the topic card.



ROWS OF LIGHTED LAMPS

Diwali (say duh-**wah**-lee) is an important festival for many people of Indian background. It is **celebrated** by people of the **Sikh** faith as well as **Hindus**. Also known as the Festival of Lights, it celebrates the **victory** of good over evil.

Festival of Lights

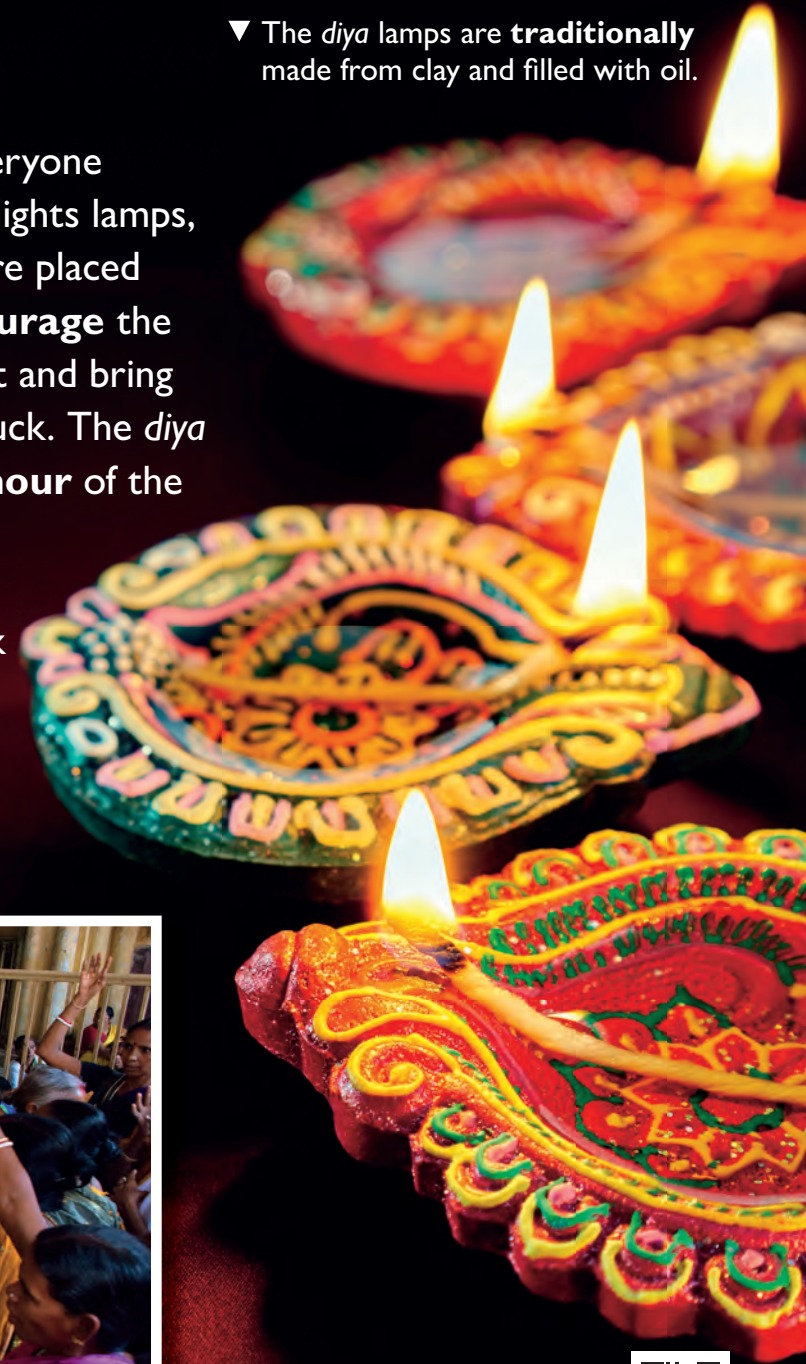
The word 'Diwali' is short for 'Deepavali', which means 'rows of lamps' in Sanskrit, an **ancient** language of India.

To celebrate Diwali, everyone wears new clothes and lights lamps, called *diya*. The lamps are placed in their homes to **encourage** the goddess Lakshmi to visit and bring **prosperity** and good luck. The *diya* lamps are also lit in **honour** of the Lord Rama and his wife, Sita, to light their way and welcome them back after a long **exile**.

▼ Women dance and sing during Diwali festivities.



▼ The *diya* lamps are **traditionally** made from clay and filled with oil.



Scan the code to link to a video about Diwali in Australia.



In Australia, not only is Diwali a **religious** festival but it has also become a celebration of national **identity**. Now, it is celebrated with large events at Federation Square in Melbourne and Parramatta Stadium in Sydney.

Five days of Diwali

Diwali is a five-day long festival, and each day is **significant**. The first and third days of the festival are **dedicated** to the **worship** of Lakshmi. On the final day of the festival, the relationship between brothers and sisters is honoured.



Diwali is also a time of **generosity**, when people give each other gifts and make **donations** to charity. Throughout the festival, **firecrackers** are set off, **festive** meals are prepared and time is spent with friends and family.



FACT!

People also welcome Lakshmi with **decorative** chalk, sand or rice drawings on their doorsteps. These drawings are known as *rangoli*.

◀ Some *rangoli* are very beautiful works of art.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is light an important part of Diwali?
2. What has been the outcome of people celebrating Diwali in Australia?
3. An ordinal number describes the position of something in a list. Locate and write down the two ordinal numbers featured on the topic card.
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/ax4y4za>) to watch the video about Diwali in Australia. List five words that you would use to describe Diwali celebrations.
5. Why is it important that people living in any country be able to celebrate Diwali, or any other celebration from their culture? With a partner, brainstorm a list of reasons.
6. Imagine you have participated in Diwali celebrations. Use what you have learned from the topic card and from watching the video to write a recount of your experience.



WHAT IS A NATIONAL DAY?

Every country has a past filled with important and special events. Many countries celebrate a national day to remember some of these times. Often the day is a **national holiday**, so people can join in the celebrations.

Reasons for a national day

A national day may commemorate when the country became a separate nation, either when it gained independence from a ruling country or when it became a republic. National days can also celebrate the time when a country was first **settled** by a foreign power, or the day of birth or death of a person significant to the country, such as a patron saint, ruler or religious leader.

Australia Day

Australia Day is Australia's national day and is celebrated on 26 January. On this day in 1788, the British first arrived in Sydney to settle the continent. Today many people get together with family and friends to participate in outdoor concerts, community barbecues, festivals, fireworks and citizenship ceremonies.



◀ In Australia, citizenship ceremonies are held on Australia Day. ▶



◀ Aboriginal dancers perform in the Sydney Botanic Gardens on Australia Day. ▶

FACT!



Neither Denmark nor the United Kingdom has a national day.

Scan the code to link to a video about celebrations around the world.



However, many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people do not celebrate Australia Day. This day is a symbol of the negative aspects of British settlement. Remembered as ‘Invasion Day’ or ‘Survival Day’, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people come together to remind Australians of their **presence**, needs and desire for **reconciliation**. Increasingly, official Australia Day celebrations are including Australia’s first inhabitants to help achieve reconciliation.

Young dancers take part ►
in St Patrick’s Day
festivities in Ireland.



National days in other countries

Country	National day	Date
Cambodia	Independence from France in 1953	9 November
France	Anniversary of Bastille Day in 1789, marking the start of the French Revolution	14 July
India	Republic Day and Independence from the British empire in 1947	26 January 15 August
Iran	Victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979	11 February
Ireland	St Patrick’s Day, death day of Ireland’s patron saint in the year 461 CE	17 March
Nepal	Declaration of becoming a republic in 2008	28 May
Papua New Guinea	Declaration of independence from Australia in 1975	16 September
South Africa	First democratic general election in 1994	27 April

QUESTIONS



1. List three of the negatives that Indigenous Australians may be reminded of on Australia Day.
2. Write down three questions you would ask someone to learn about their national day celebrations.

3. A compound word is two words that are joined together to act as one word. There are many compound words on the topic card. What are three of them?
4. Use the QR code (or <http://qrs.ly/ui4y4zc>) to watch a video about cultural celebrations around the world. Although countries have their own celebrations that in many ways are unique, there are some things they have in common. Can you describe two things that many celebrations have in common?

5. Select a national day from another country listed on the topic card. Complete an Internet search to learn about how the day is celebrated.
6. Using the information gathered in Question 5, write a short information report about your chosen national day.