



MY DIWALI ACTIVITY PACK



Blessings:

His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj



Inspired:

His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj

Organisers: BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha



FIREWORK PAINTING

Supplies:

Pipe cleaners
Paint (red, white, blue)
Glue (optional)
Glitter (optional)
Paper

Method:

1. Take 4 pipe cleaners and fold them in half
2. Twist the bottom portion to create a handle
3. Fan out the pipe cleaners to create a star shape
4. Mix each of your paints with some glue
5. Dip your pipe cleaner in the paint and stamp away!
6. Sprinkle some glitter over the painting

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Day 1:

Dhanteras



On this day both Lakshmi, the devi of wealth and physical Lakshmi (money), are offered puja with the sentiment of purifying one's earnings so that one may use them with vivek. Puja of Ādhyātmik 'Dhan' in the form of Ekāntik Dharma — encompassing dharma, gnān, vairāgya, and bhakti — is also performed.



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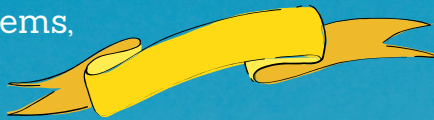
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Diwali BUNTING

Materials:

- Paper
- Scissors
- Any adhesive – blu tack, glue, Sellotape
- Ribbon/ string
- Any decorative items you have – gems, colouring pencils, felt tip pens



Instructions:

1. Draw out your bunting and cut out your bunting.
2. Decorate your bunting with various patterns and designs.
3. Arrange your bunting in order.
4. Thread string or ribbon through the holes at the top.
5. Stick up your bunting.

Please ensure children are supervised when handling scissors.

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KĀLI CHAUDAS

DAY 2



This day is called Narak Chaturdashi after Shri Krishna vanquished the demon Narkāsūr. Devotees pray and offer puja to Hanumānji to remove inauspiciousness and the fear of evil spirits.

Also on this day, when King Hem passed away, his family mourned immensely. Seeing this, Yam Rājā was moved and declared, “Whoever lights deeps (divās) will not die during these five days of Deepotsav!” In essence, one who is enlightened within, becomes brahmarup, and hence will not fear death.



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COCONUT LADOO MAKING

(Fun for the younger ones!)



Ingredients:

Condensed milk - 1/3 cup

Desiccated coconut - 2 cups

Method:

1. Add condensed milk into the coconut.
2. Mix it well until a dough is formed.
3. Roll it into a ball to make ladoos.
4. Roll it in some desiccated coconut.





RANGOLI BY NUMBERS

Fill in the colours with the matching numbers
and you will have a beautiful rangoli!



You will need: Colouring Pencils or Pens

1 = Orange

2 = Dark Green

3 = Yellow

4 = Red

5 = Light Blue

6 = Pink

7 = Dark Blue

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Diwali

DAY 3



Shri Rāmchandra Bhagwan returned to Ayodhya after his victory over Rāvan in Lankā. In essence, people light divas on this day to depict their joy on being released from suffering inflicted by evil elements. Henceforth, this day came to be known as Deepotsavi.

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FRUIT ROCKETS

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 strawberries
- 10 large green grapes
- 15 blueberries
- 5 cocktail sticks



METHOD:

1. Wash and dry the fruit, then cut off the leafy top of the strawberry.
2. Ask an adult to thread the blueberries and grapes on to the skewers.
3. Top each skewer with a strawberry to make a point at the top of the rocket.

Serve and enjoy!

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Paper

LANTERNS

Materials:

- Paper or card
- Scissors
- Stapler or tape
- Glue
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Things to decorate your lantern with: gift wrap paper, ribbons, sequins, stickers, glitter glue, small buttons, etc.



Instructions:

1. Start out with an A4, sheet of paper, or a sheet of card. Fold this paper in half, lengthwise.
2. Draw a horizontal line one inch from the long edge opposite the fold. This line is just a guide for cutting.
3. Starting from the folded edge, cut a straight line about an inch from one short edge, all the way up to the horizontal line.
4. Continue to cut more straight lines about 1 inch apart until you reach the opposite short edge of the paper. Remember that the horizontal line marks the point where you stop cutting each straight line.
5. Unfold the paper. The paper will have several vertical slits along the middle.
6. You can keep your lantern plain or decorate the top and bottom edges. Here are some ideas:
 - Paint or colour a border on each end.
 - Draw details and patterns with glitter glue or even pens.
 - Stick stickers on the border.
7. Transform the paper into a lantern by forming it into a tube shape. Overlap the long edge at least $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch. Ask an adult to staple or tape at the top and bottom of the overlap.
8. Lastly cut a strip of paper and glue the ends on the inside of the lantern's top edge. To form an handle.



Follow this [video tutorial](https://tinyurl.com/yy89af8l) for more guidance.



<https://tinyurl.com/yy89af8l>

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Bestu Varas

DAY 4

It was the day when Lord Vaman was granted three steps of land from King Bali. To fulfill the Lord's third step, King Bali surrendered everything and earned His eternal grace. On New Year's Day, Lord Krishna stopped the tradition of Indra Puja in Gokul and introduced the ritual of offering fodder to cows and worship to Mount Govardhan. Subsequently, Lord Indra (God of Rain) was angered and rained mercilessly upon the village of Gokul. However, Lord Krishna lifted Mount Govardhan with his little finger and provided refuge and protection to the citizens of Gokul. Maha Puja is performed where devotees participate to keep the blessings of Lord Swaminarayan and Mahant Swami Maharaj. At noon, as a symbol of appreciation and prayers, the Lord is offered a feast of food items - called Annkut. A sumptuous and colourful array of vegetarian items, decoratively arranged by the devotees and sadhus are devoutly offered to the Lord

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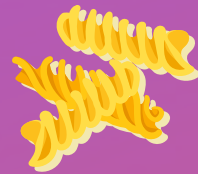
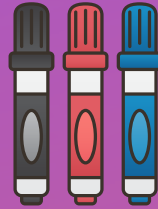
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Pasta RANGOLI

Materials:

- Coloured card
- Pens
- Glue
- Different types of pasta shapes
- Paint (optional)



Instructions

1. Get your coloured card and draw any rangoli pattern you want on it with a marker pen. Remember to keep it simple as you'll be filling it in with pasta. Big shapes look the best.
2. Once drawn, arrange your pasta onto the design to see what looks best.
3. After you have decided on how you want to place your pasta, glue each pasta piece down. If you would like to paint your pasta, do it before sticking them down.
4. Decorate the rest of the paper with paint, markers, and even glitter.

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Bhāi Beej

DAY 5



The second day of the New Year, Kartik Sud 2, is known as Bhāi Beej. Once, Yamunāji, invited her brother, Yam Rājā, to have a meal at her home. She welcomed him warmly by performing his puja and served him sumptuous food. After the meal, Yam Rājā reciprocated his sibling's love by gifting her expensive garments. He then requested her to ask him for a boon. She asked, "Every year on this day, you should have a meal in my home. You should also release all those who are in Yampuri. And to those who have food at their sister's home on this day, you should grant happiness."

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MAKE YOUR OWN DIVO!

The divo, the divine flame, symbolises the matchless, infinite light of God and is an important element in Hindu worship. Why don't we learn how to make a simple divo at home by ourselves! It is very easy – you will need some simple ingredients which we all have in our kitchen. Don't forget to ask for the help of an adult!

For the divo you will need:

- 1 cup salt
- 2 cup plain flour
- 1 cup water

For decoration you will need:

- Acrylic paint
- PVA glue
- Glitter and/or sequins

Instructions:

1. Mix all the salt, plain flour, and water together to form a dough.
2. Preheat the oven to 100 degrees.
3. Make small balls with the dough that fit into the palm of your hand.
4. Shape the dough into a small ball that fits into your palm, using a tealight – press the tealight into the centre of ball of dough.
5. Remove the tealight. Then place onto a baking tray and bake for 1 hour.
6. Remove from the oven and let the divos cool to room temperature.
7. Decorate the divo with paint, add some glitter to make them sparkle or some sequins to bedazzle them.
8. Leave to dry overnight.

Please ensure children are supervised whilst the oven is in use

Now your wonderful divos are ready just in time for Diwali – you can use a tealight and place them around your home.



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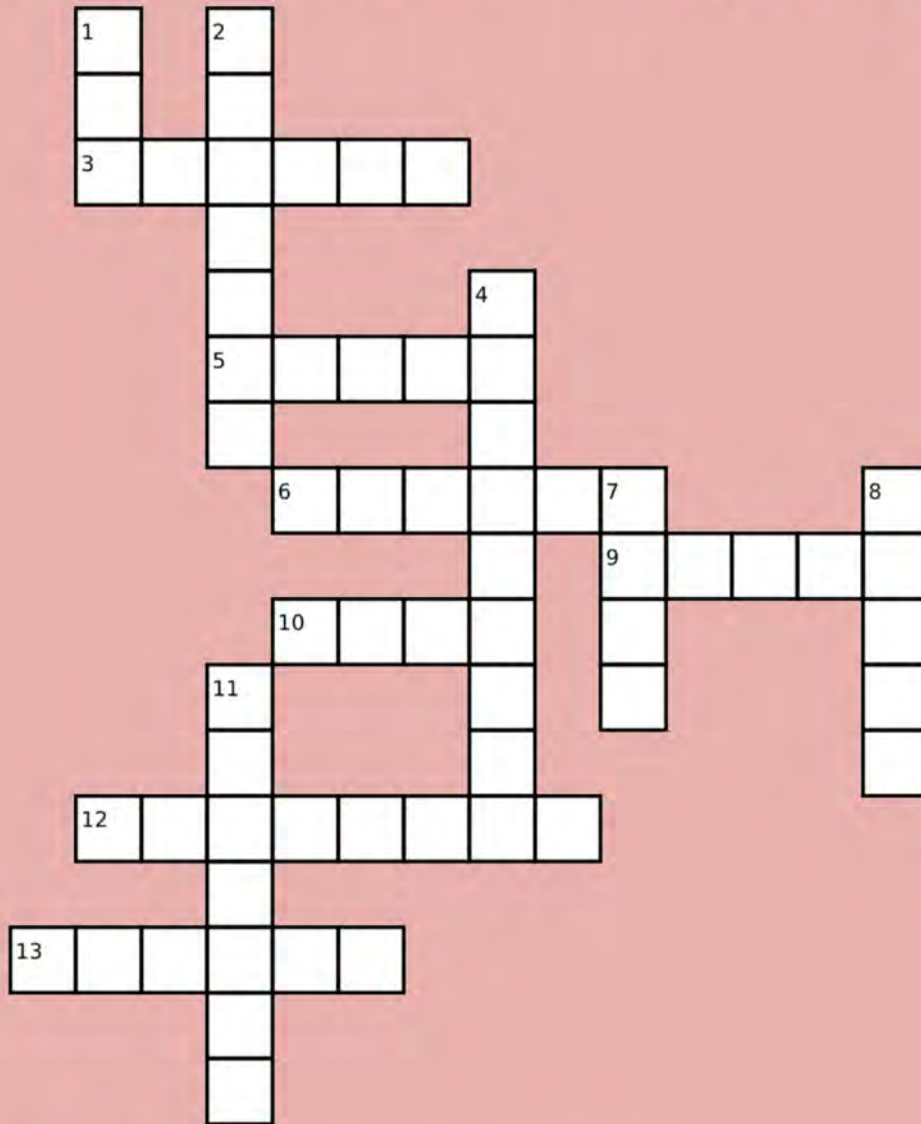


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DIWALI CROSSWORD



ACROSS:



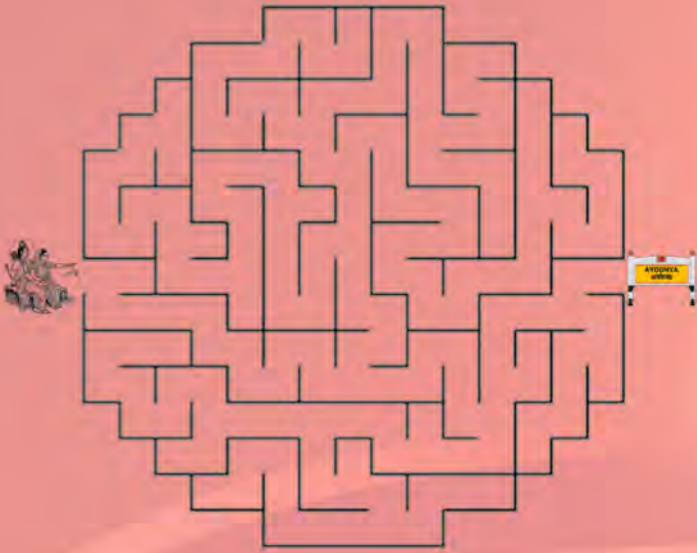
DOWN:





HELP!!!

RAM BHAGWAN AND SITAJI HAVE LOST THEIR WAY TO AYODHYA. CAN YOU HELP THEM?



WORDSEARCH CORNER

WHERE THERE ARE 2 WORDS IN THE CLUES, THE 2 WORDS ARE HIDDEN SEPARATELY IN THE WORDSEARCH
I.E NEW AND YEAR ARE IN DIFFERENT PLACES

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|----------|
| FIREWORKS | DIWALI | NEW YEAR |
| RAM BHAGWAN | SITAJI | DIVO |
| DHANTERAS | PUJAN | ANNAKUT |
| HANUMAN | RANGOLI | |

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P M
E J
H S N E
N J U S
W K A U R Z
F O O M P R
Y R D Z D U J S V R G U A S Y L P D I R
Y E A R I S W I K B E S N I E T E K G V
D J M W A D T O V G K G A B X K W G
L O A R F A P O J R O B H A N U
C L E N J V R D O L X A N G
I T S I M O H W I P G N
T E N Q P K Y J E E W W A I
M M A Z S D R V R S A A K G
I X T H S L A X M I H Q N U K U
Y Y P D H V Z F N F N T T C
U I U T L Z C C H H Q L O K
H J C Y Y G J V H N
B A P D L Z E I
N I W G
  
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JOIN THE DOTS



RANGOLI - COLOUR ME IN

