

CHRISTIANITY and JUDAISM - 'How and Why do religions use light?'

What does a Christingle symbolise?

Christingle - Christian festival of light
Orange – The World

Red ribbon - love and blood of Christ

Sweets/fruit - God's creations

Lit candle - Jesus's light in the world



How and Why does Sweden celebrate light?

Lucia Day (Saint Lucy's Day) is a Christian light and feast day. It commemorates the martyr Lucia of Syracuse, who brought food to Christians hiding in Roman catacombs, lighting her way with a candlelit wreath on her head.

- White dress, red sash, candle headdress
- Saffron bread (lussekatter)
- Ginger biscuits (pepperkakkor)



Why do Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah?

Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of light. It celebrates the **Maccabees** victory reclaiming their temple after it was desecrated by Greeks.

Hanukkah lasts for **eight nights** to how long the holy oil burned.

A **menorah** (candle holder) is lit each night

'Hanukkah' means 'dedication'





Diwali is a Hindu light festival that celebrates Rama's eventual defeat of the evil spirit Ravana, and his triumphant return to his home.

What is Diwali?

Hindus celebrate Diwali by lighting **Diyas** (oil lamps), home decoration, fireworks, **puja** (prayers), gifts, feasting, and sweets and families gathering together.



Key vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Light	Illumination and intelligence given by God
Christingle	A Christian symbol of light used around Christmas
Symbol	An object or image representing a religious idea
Hanukkah	The Jewish festival of light meaning 'dedication'
Diwali	The Hindu festival of light meaning 'row of lights'
Christianity	The belief in the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus
Christian	A person who follows Christianity
Judaism	The religion of people of the Jewish faith
Jew	A person who follows Judaism
Hinduism	A religion who believes in reincarnation and karma.
Hindu	A person who follows Hinduism