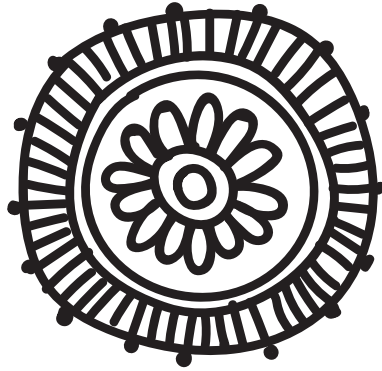


Learn
About Diwali





WHAT IS DIWALI?

Diwali is one of the most important events in the Indian calendar. It is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Nepalese people all over the world. Diwali is also known as 'Deepavali' or 'the festival of light' which celebrates the New Year.

WHAT DOES DIWALI MEAN?

The word Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'. Diyas are lit around homes to remember the story of Rama and Sita and good winning over evil.

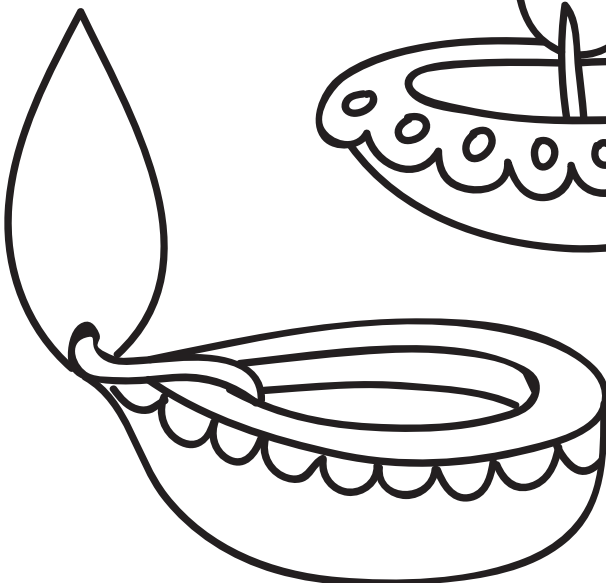
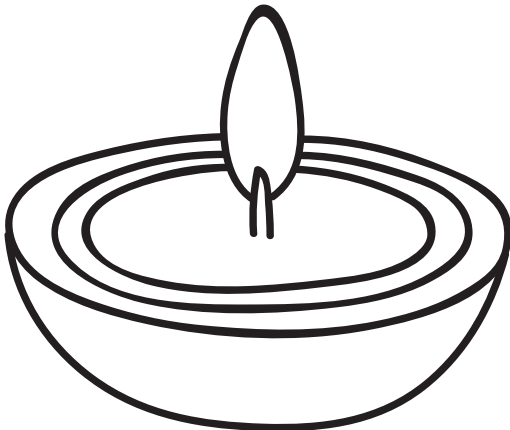
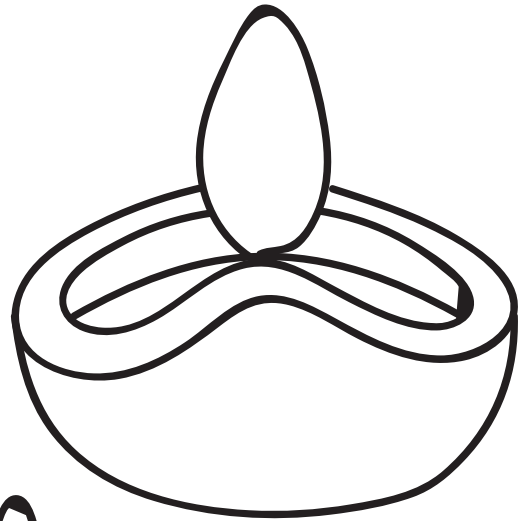
Lamps are also to tempt goddess Laxmi to visit homes bringing wealth in future with her.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING DIWALI?

During Diwali, homes are cleaned and oil lamps and diya are lit. This helps guide Laxmi - the goddess of wealth and good fortune, and Ganesh - the god of wisdom, good luck and remover of obstacles into their homes for the coming year.

Gifts and sweets are shared with family and friends and prayers said to gods and goddesses at home or temples where offerings of sweets are fruit are made. Many people wear new clothes and fireworks are lit in the evening in celebration.

DECORATE AND COLOUR
THE DIYAS BELOW



TRIUMPH OF GOOD VS EVIL

HINDUS - RESCUE

Rama and his wife Sita were banished to the forest for 14 years from their home in Ayodhya by the King. Ramas brother, Lakshman, also went with them.

After many hears, Ravana, a ten-headed demon, kidnapped Sita and took her away to his island of Lanka. With the help of Hanuman, the monkey god, Rama and Lakshman rescued Sita and they were all reunited.

The people of their village lit oil lamps to guide them all home and celebrated their return with fireworks and Rama was crowned Prince.

SIKHS - JUSTICE

Diwali is also celebrated by Sikhs. The 6th Guru, Guru Hargobind Sahib, was wrongly imprisoned for his beliefs by Emperor Shah Jahan. The Guru stood up for what he believed in and refused to leave the prison where he was held until the other kings and princes that were unjustly imprisoned were released too.

It was close to Diwali they were all released and therefore made the occasion and even more joyous event and expressed another triumph of good over evil.

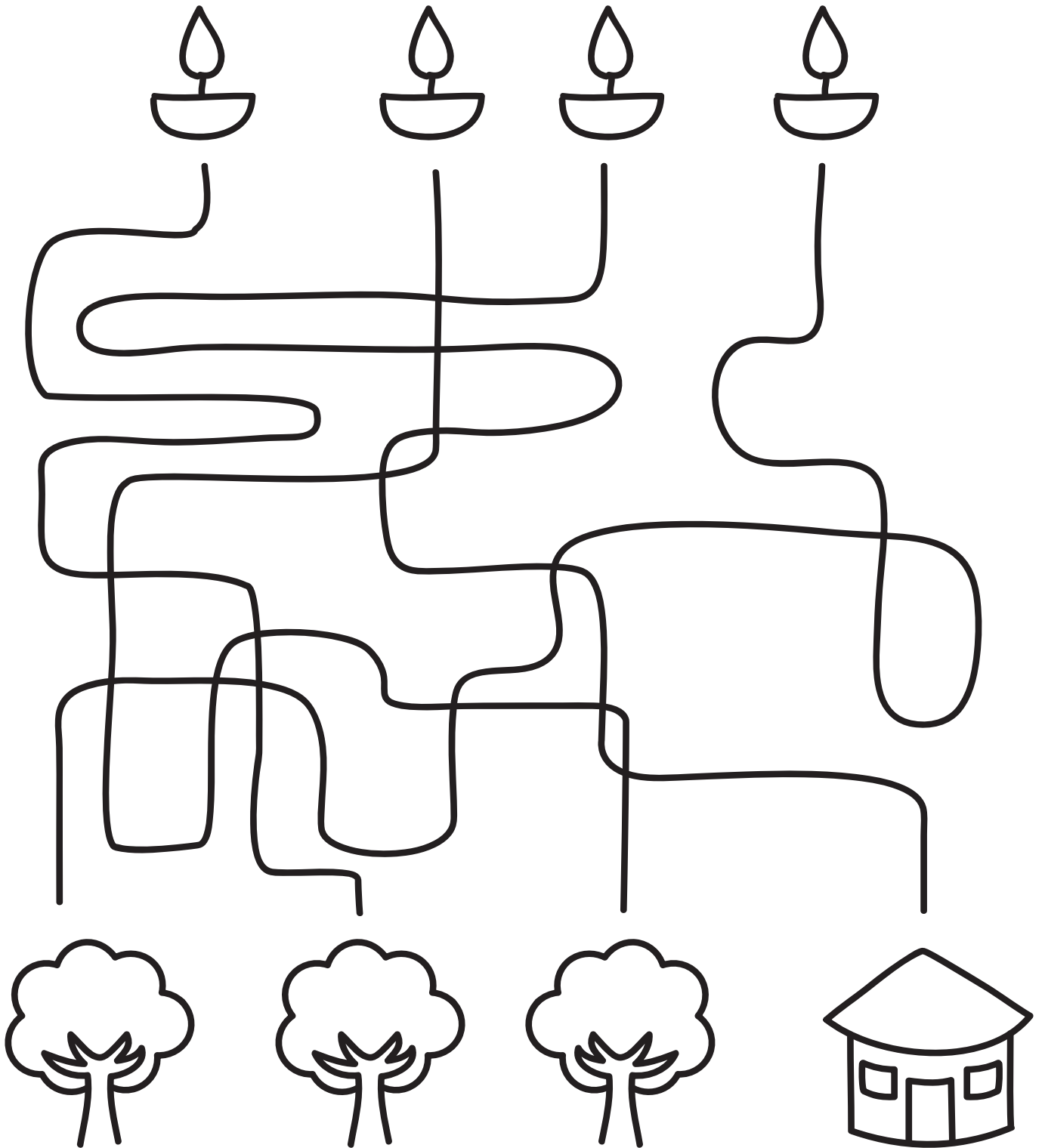
JAINS - NIRVANA

In Jainism, they remember Lord Mahavira as this was the day he attained Moksha (nirvana). Many Gods were said to be present illuminating the darkness during this time.

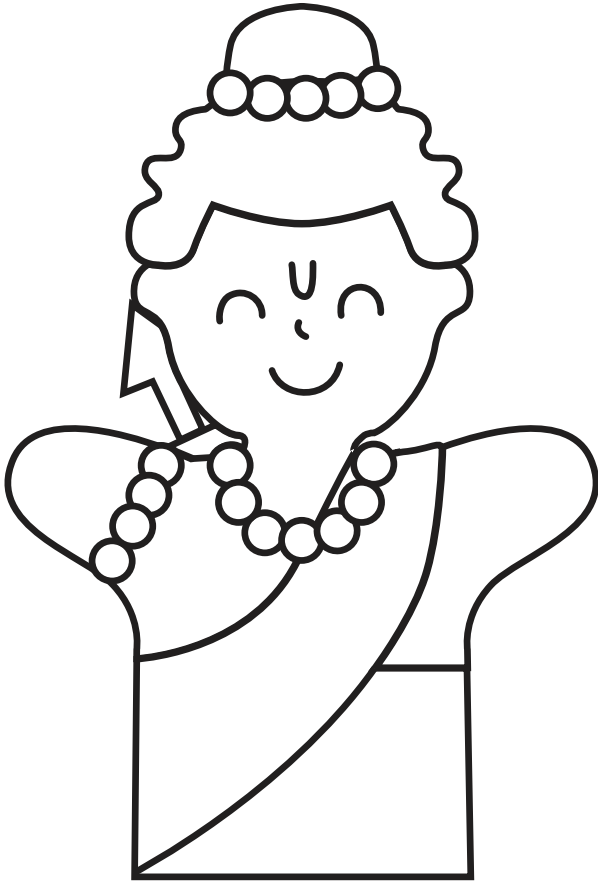


LIGHT THE WAY HOME?

Find the right diya that lights the way to the house.



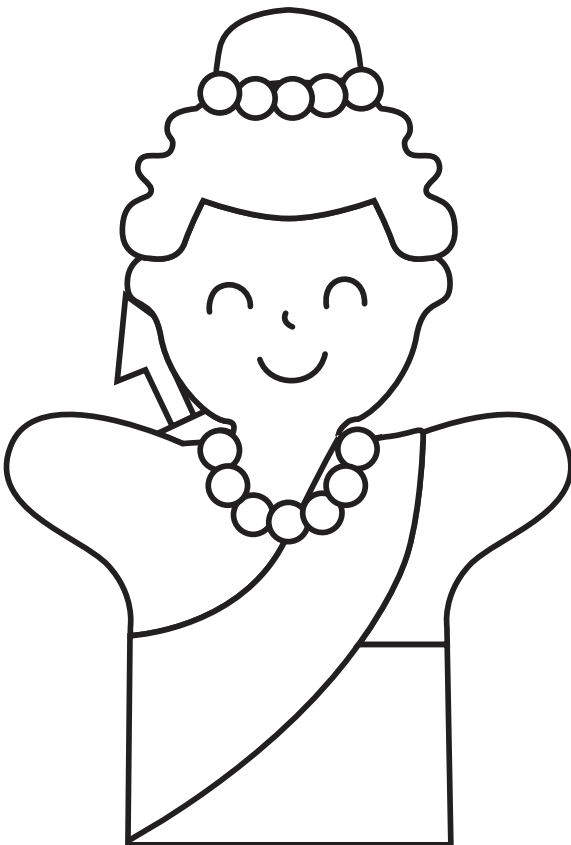
RAMA



SITA



LAKSHMAN



HANUMAN



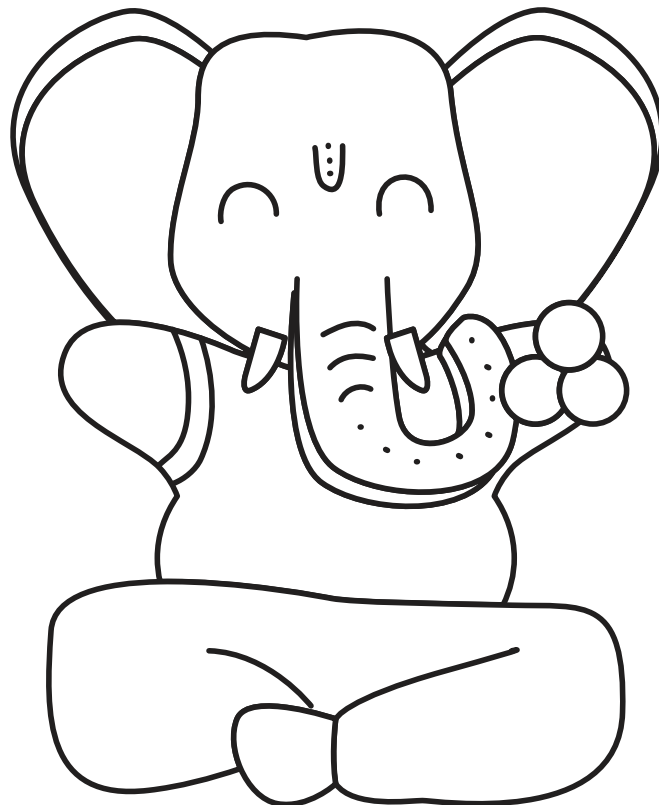
RAVANA



LAXMI



GANESH

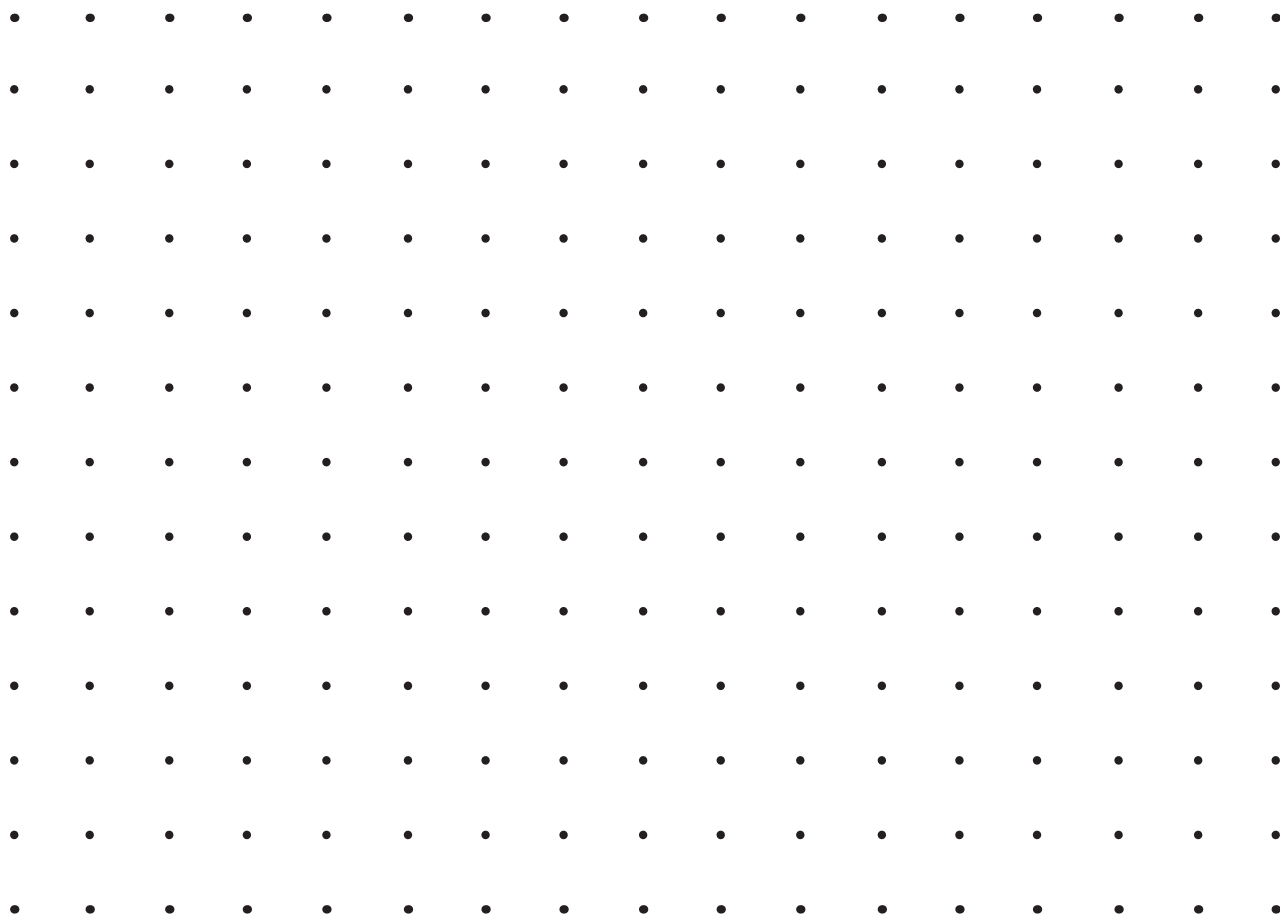
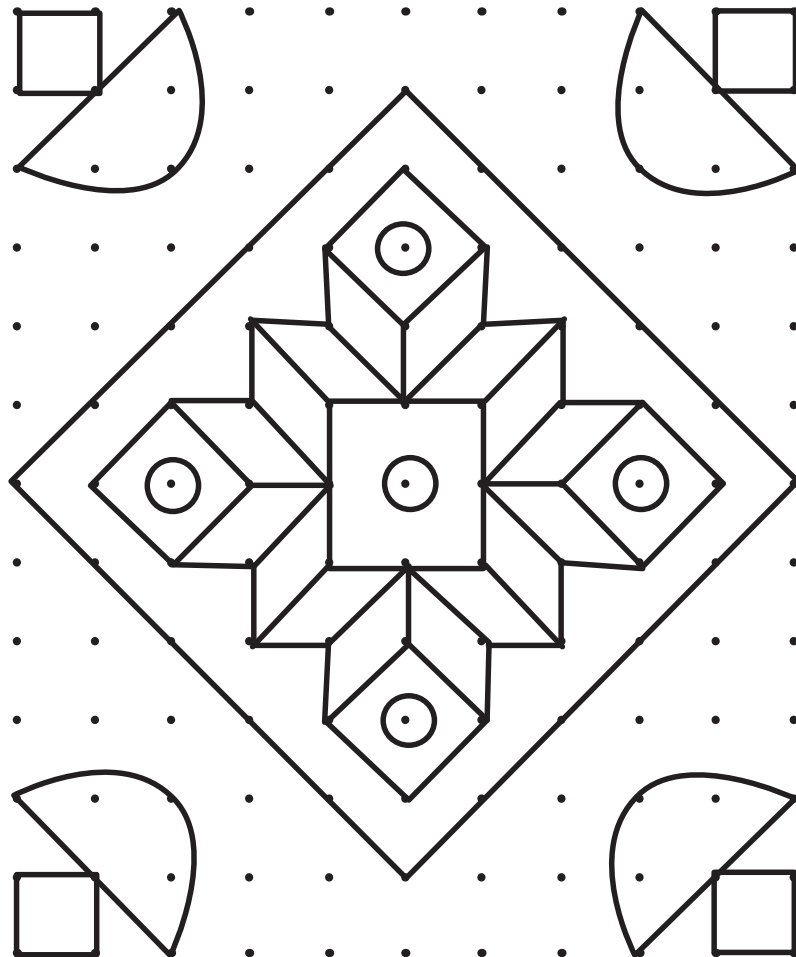


RANGOLI PATTERNS

Rangoli patterns are used to decorate the ground near the front door to welcome goddess Laxmi into our homes.

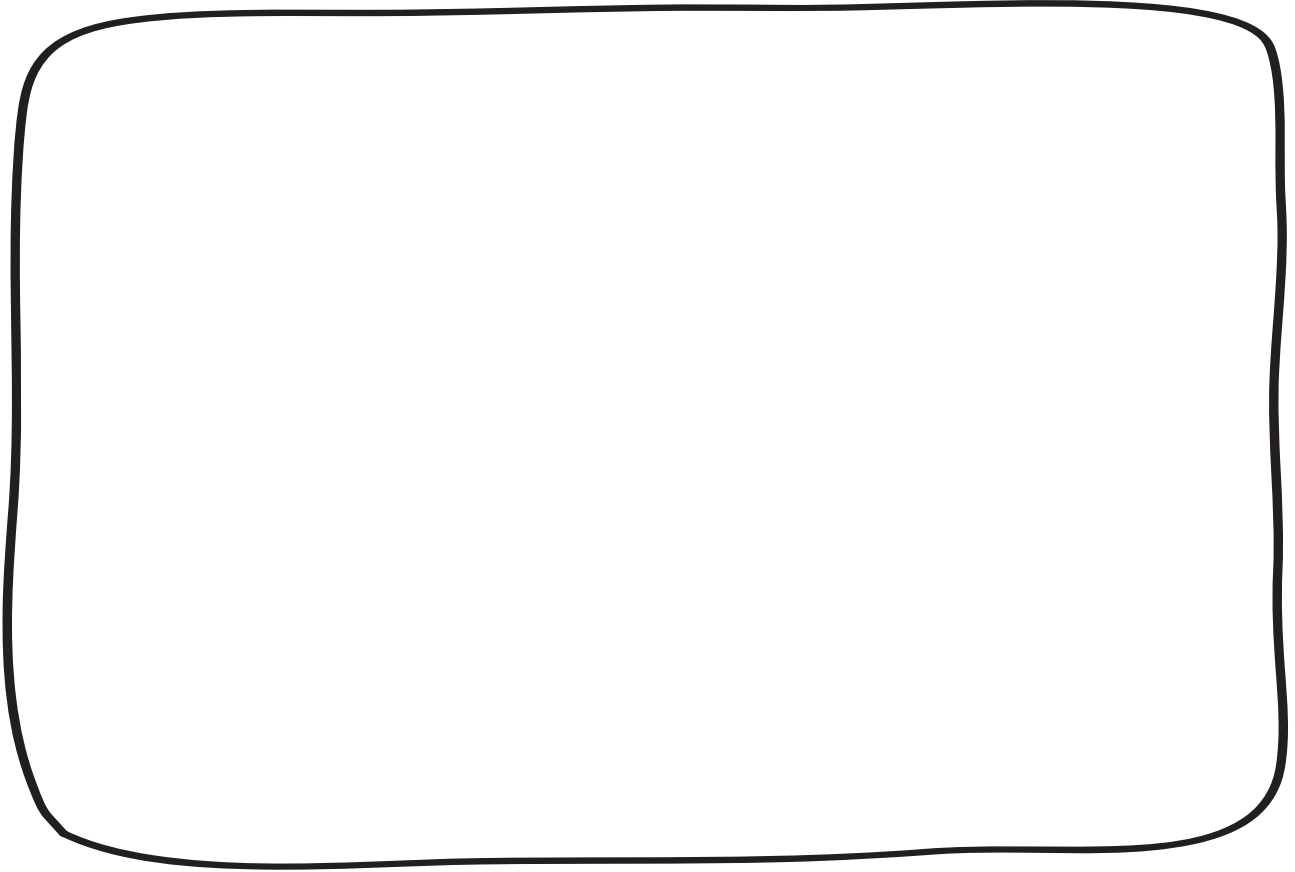
They are usually drawn using rice grains, flour, sand or chalk. Rangoli drawings are themed from nature for example peacocks, swans, mango shapes or flowers.

Have a go at drawing your own below.



YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Use this page to draw a picture of you and your family celebrating Diwali.



YOUR FAVOURITE THINGS

Use this page to draw a picture of all your favourite things about the Diwali.

