

Raksha Bandhan Religious Festival Story



Religious Education KS1

Raksha Bandhan



This Hindu festival is always celebrated on the full moon in the month of Shraavana in the lunar calendar (usually during August). Raksha Bandhan is an occasion to celebrate the sacred bond of love and affection between brothers and sisters. This festival is primarily a north Indian festival that is celebrated by all brothers and sisters to express their deep emotions, love and affection.

On the day of Rakhi festival, the sister ties rakhi on the wrist of her brother and both make a prayer to God for the well-being of each other. Rakhi is a bracelet made of red and gold threads. Sisters perform 'aarti' and put tilak on the forehead of her brother.

In return, brothers make a promise to take care of their sister under all circumstances. Usually brothers present a gift to their sister to mark the occasion. This is a very happy festival and the rituals are followed with great devotion.

Today, other people take part in this festival too, such as close friends.





This festival celebrates the love brothers and sisters should have for each other. The Rakhi (or bracelet) is tied on the wrist of the brother by his sister.





As the rakhi is tied,
a prayer is read out
asking for happiness
and prosperity.





Rakhis are often made using different coloured silk threads, with stones and beads.





Once the rakhi has been tied, a mantra is chanted. Once the ceremony has finished, the sister eats a sweet desert (often made using milk and sugar). After this, her brother gives her a small amount of money as a gift of appreciation.





This festival has evolved over the years, but the most important point is still to celebrate the special relationship between sisters and brothers.





Questions

Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-

What parts of the story did you like?

Ask the children to try to make a rakhi. Talk to them about who they would like to give their rakhi to.

The children can design a greetings card for their brother, sister or a friend. You will find a Raksha Bandhan card template on iChild.

