Overview
In this 60-minute activity, students have the opportunity to explore the religious aspects of Diwali in more detail. Students research different faiths and draw conclusions about the themes running through each one. They then use their research to make an informational poster to display in class for other students to look at. Additional time will be needed to complete the posters.

Materials
Resources and organisation:
- Access to the Internet for research
- Access to the EducationCity Mind Map tool
- Reference books related to Diwali
- Organise the students into groups of four
- A4 paper
- Pencils, felt tip pens and colouring pencils

Lesson structure
0 - 10 minutes – Talk to the students about Diwali and make a mind map of what they know already. This could be recorded using a flip chart or the EducationCity Mind Map tool.

10 - 15 minutes – Review the students’ findings and emphasise the fact that although Diwali is universally celebrated across India, it is of particular importance to Hindus, Sikhs and Jains. In addition, highlight the beliefs associated with Diwali, should the students have mentioned them, or explain to them that there are various tales that are associated with the different religions. Mention the various stories, for example Rama and Sita, the goddess Lakshmi, Guru Hargobind and Lord Mahavir and explain to the students that you would like them to work in groups to research one of them in greater detail.

15 - 35 minutes – Allocate particular tales to the students and provide them with an opportunity to carry out their research using the Internet, reference books or both. Circulate as the students carry out their research to support and assess their understanding.

35 - 45 minutes – Draw the class back together and discuss what they have found out. Discuss the common theme that runs through the tales, highlighting the fact that good wins out over evil in each one. Then explain to the students that you would like them to use the information to make a factual poster about the story they have researched. Discuss with the students how they could approach this and model various ways in which it could be done.

45 - 60 minutes – Share out the resources and set the students off on their task. As the
students design their posters, circulate to share ideas. Additional time may be needed to complete the posters.