

The Dussehra Festival

- Which festivals do you celebrate?
- Which festival is celebrated as victory of good over evil?
- On which festival do we burn effigies or *putlas*?

Let's read why we celebrate Dussehra. What is the story behind it?



In India many festivals are celebrated with great zeal. Dussehra is one of them. It is also called *Vijayadashmi*. According to Hindu

calendar, Dussehra occurs on the tenth day of 'Ashwin month' 'Shukla Paksha'.

On this day Lord Ram got victory over Ravan, the king of Lanka. He kidnapped Ram's wife Sita and took her to Lanka. This led to a fierce battle between Ram and Ravan which ended with the defeat of Ravan and his army. Dussehra is celebrated in honour of Ram's victory.

In many parts of India, Ramleela is organized during Navratri, from Ashwin Shukla Pratipada to Dashmi. Ramleela describes the story of Ram in the form of a drama. Every day many scenes of Ram's life such as Narad Moh, Ram Janm, Ram Vivah, Ram Vanvas, Tadka Vadh, Panchvati scene, Seeta Haran, Hanuman Milan, Burning of Lanka, Setu Nirman and Ram-Ravan Yuddh are enacted on the stage. Hanuman's get-up attracts everyone especially the children.



On the tenth day, large effigies of Ravan, his son Meghnad and his brother Kumbhkaran are erected on a big ground. These effigies are stuffed with fire crackers. In the evening people begin to assemble to see Ravan Dahan and fireworks.

Fairs are organized at various places on this auspicious occasion. Children enjoy themselves in many ways. They play the roles of various characters like Ram, Hanuman and Rakshasas using handmade paper arms and masks.

At sunset Ram and Lakshman come in a chariot with Vanar Sena. Ram shoots arrows at the effigies. The effigies catch fire and burn to ashes. Fireworks and crackers explode in the air. People in some areas of Rajasthan go to greet each other. Dussehra is a symbol of victory of good over evil.



Glossary

zeal	: enthusiasm; उत्साह
kidnap	: to take someone away by force illegally; अपहरण करना
honour	: great respect and admiration; सम्मान, आदर

victory	: an occasion when you win a war, game, competition, election, etc.; जीत, विजय
organize	: to arrange for something; आयोजित करना
enact	: to perform a play or act a part in a play; अभिनीत करना
get-up	: a set of clothes, especially strange or unusual ones; पहनावा
stuff	: to fill something tightly; ढूँसना
fireworks	: आतिशबाजी; पटाखे
erect	: to build a building, wall, or other structure; खड़ा करना
firecracker	: small firework; cracker; छोटे पटाखे
assemble	: to come together in a single place or bring parts together in a single group; इकट्ठा होना या करना
mask	: something that covers your face and has another face painted on it; मुखौटा
chariot	: an open vehicle with two wheels, pulled by horses, used in ancient times in battle and for racing; रथ
symbol	: a person, an object, an event, etc. that represents something else; प्रतीक
explode	: to burst loudly; विस्फोटित होना, फूटना
evil	: having a harmful effect on people; morally bad; बुराई
ashes	: what is left after something has been destroyed by burning; राख

Activity – I

A. Choose the correct alternative-

1. Which festival is also called *Vijayadashmi*?
 - a. Deepawali
 - b. Holi
 - c. Dussehra
 - d. Rakhi ()
2. Dussehra is the festival of....
 - a. victory of good
 - b. victory of evil
 - c. victory of immoral
 - d. victory of *rakshsas* ()

B. Write 'Yes' in brackets if you agree or 'No' if you don't agree with the following statements.

1. Dussehra comes in *Krishna Paksha*. ()
2. *Ramleela* describes the story of Ram. ()
3. Dussehra is celebrated on *Ashwin Shukla Dashmi*. ()

4. We should follow 'good' and give up 'evil'. ()
5. Hanuman's get-up attracts children. ()

C. Answer the following questions.

1. Why do we celebrate Dussehra?
2. What is *Ramleela*? Which scenes are enacted on the stage?
3. How do children enjoy on Dussehra?
4. What was Ravan's fault?

Activity – II

A. Choose the correct word from the box and fill in the blanks.

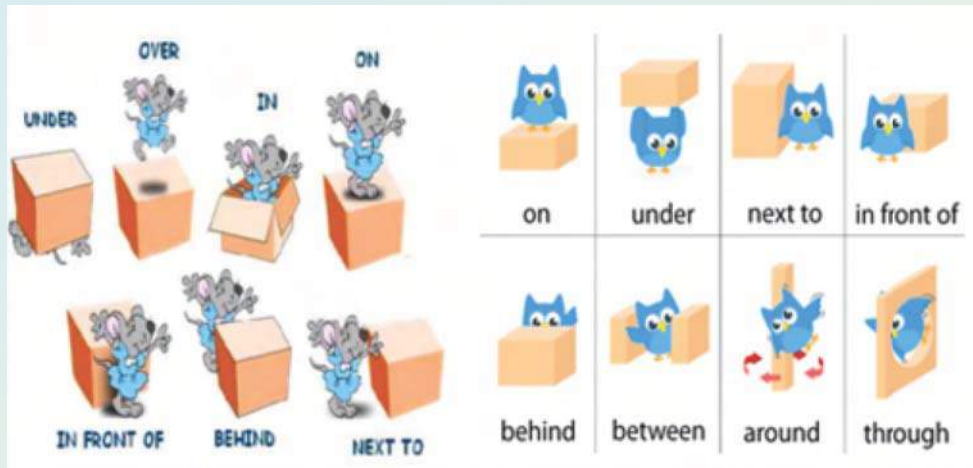
victory perform masks arrow crackers

1. We explode on Deepawali.
2. Actors come on the stage andtheir act.
3. Children like to wearof their favourite characters.
4. India gotover Pakistan in the Kargil War.
5. Arjun aimed hisat the bird's eye.

Activity – III

A. Look at these pictures and observe the position of

the mouse and the owl.



In the first image....

- The mouse is under the box.
- The mouse is over the box.
- The mouse is in the box.

.....

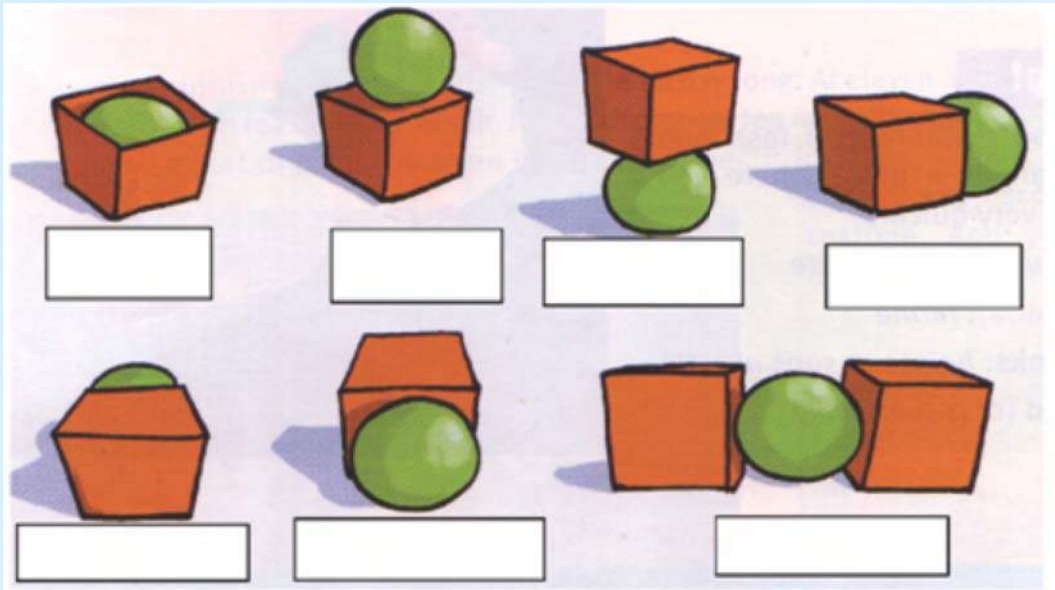
In the second image....

- The owl is on the block.
- The owl is under the block.
- The owl is next to the block.

.....

These underlined words are called 'prepositions'. They are used before a noun or pronoun to show place, position, time method and other types of relationships between two nouns or pronouns.

B. Now look at the image below and fill suitable preposition in the given boxes.



Now write a sentence for each image. First one has been done for you.

1. The ball is in the box.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.

Activity – IV

The teacher will divide the class into two groups and name those groups after great personalities like Vivekanad group, Subhash group.

Now the teacher calls one student from each group and he/she will get ready with a chalk or marker in his/her hand. The teacher speaks out a word from the lesson.

The boy/girl who writes the word on the board first, will earn a point for his/her team. Then the other pair comes. In this way, every team member from each team, will come and write words spoken by the teacher. In the end, the team with higher score will be declared winner.

Activity – V

Write a note on how you celebrated Dussehra last time. In your description, you may write about your visit to the *Ramleela* ground where you saw the burning of the effigies of Ravan, Meghnad and Kumbhkaran, visit to the fair, etc.