

The Festival of Rakhi

A Hindu Festival



Raksha Bandhan

Raksha Bandhan – also known as Rakhi – is a Hindu festival.

It celebrates brotherhood and the love between siblings. Traditionally, it is concerned with the love between brothers and sisters.



The Lunar Calendar

Rakhi is celebrated on the full moon during the month of Shravan in the lunar calendar.



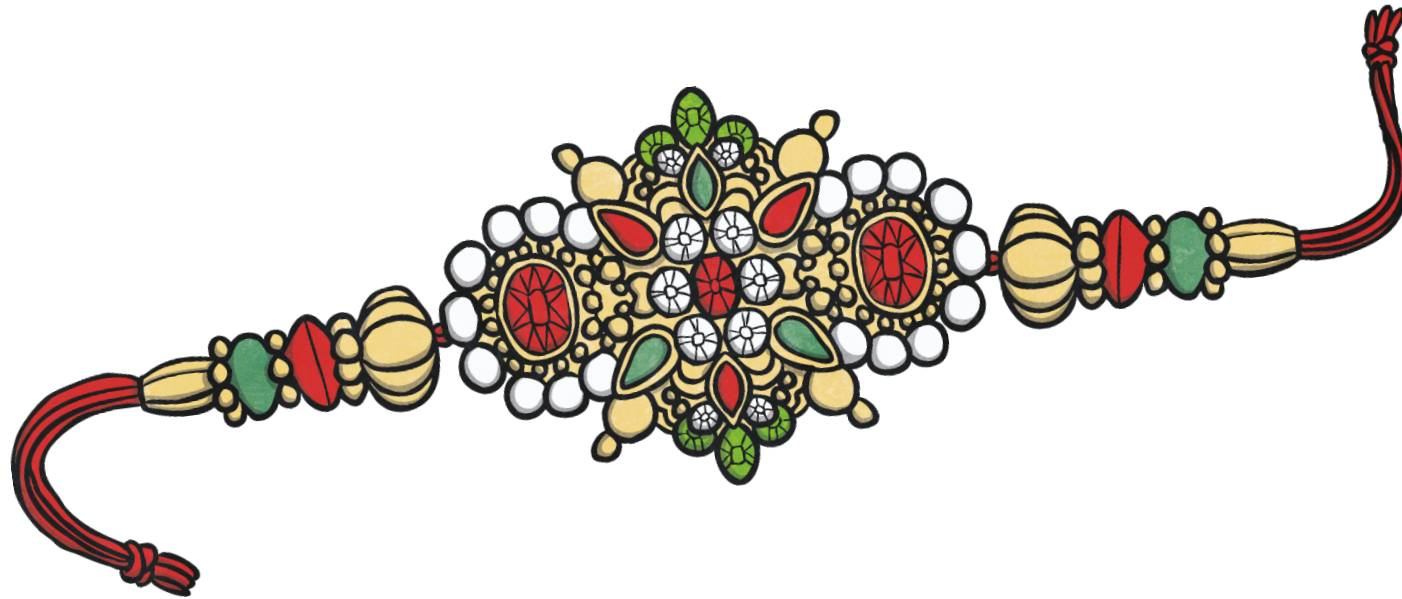
Did you know?

The lunar calendar depends on when the moon goes around the Earth.

The Rakhi

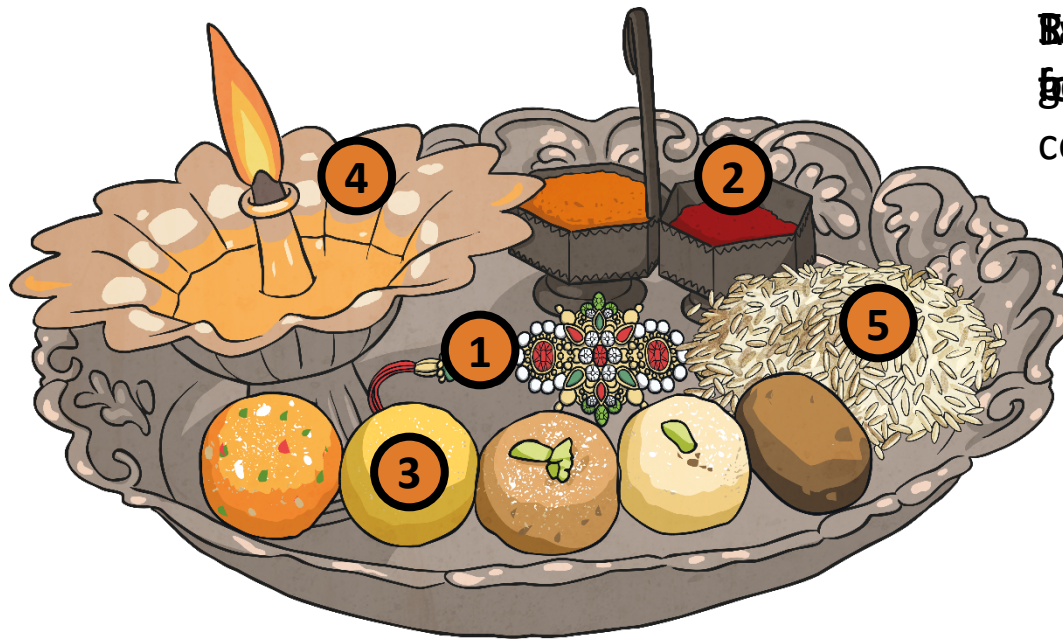
Raksha Bandhan is the full name for the festival. The word 'raksha' means protection and 'bandhan' means to tie.

The rakhi is a bracelet made of coloured threads, often red and gold, woven together with stones and jewels threaded in between.



Preparations

The sister prepares the aarti plate with objects which have special symbolic meaning.



5. Chawal

White rice is offered to the gods during the holy ceremony

The Ceremony

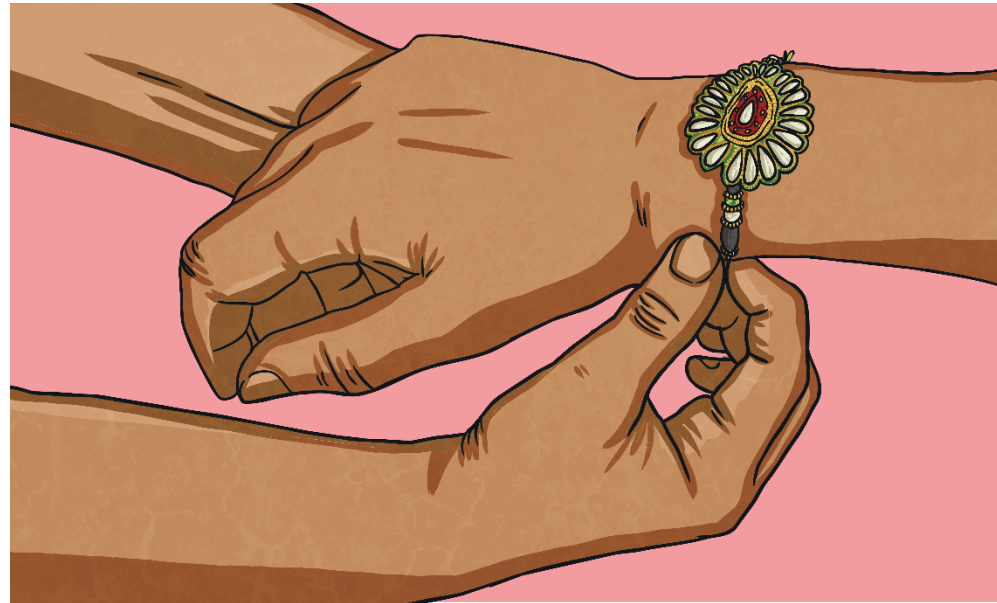
- A prayer is said, then the sister ties the rakhi on her brother's wrist, saying prayers for his happiness and wellbeing.
- The brother promises to stand by his sister through all the good and bad times.
- The sister makes the tilak mark on her brother's forehead, using the red powder.
- The brother gives his promise to protect her and gives her a gift.
- Then they feed each other the sweets.



Tying the Rakhi

When the sister ties a rakhi around her brother's wrists, it is a symbol of the special love between them.

It is also a sign that the brother will do his duty and protect his family in the future.



The Mantra

During the ceremony, the sister might say,

**"The sun radiates its sunlight, the radish spreads its seeds,
I tie the rakhi to you O brother and wish that may you live long."**



New Traditions

These days, new traditions are taking place.

- Rakhis are tied between friends and mothers and daughters.
- They are tied around the wrists of soldiers.
- Important leaders send rakhis to kings and other world leaders, as a sign that they will protect each other's lands.

