

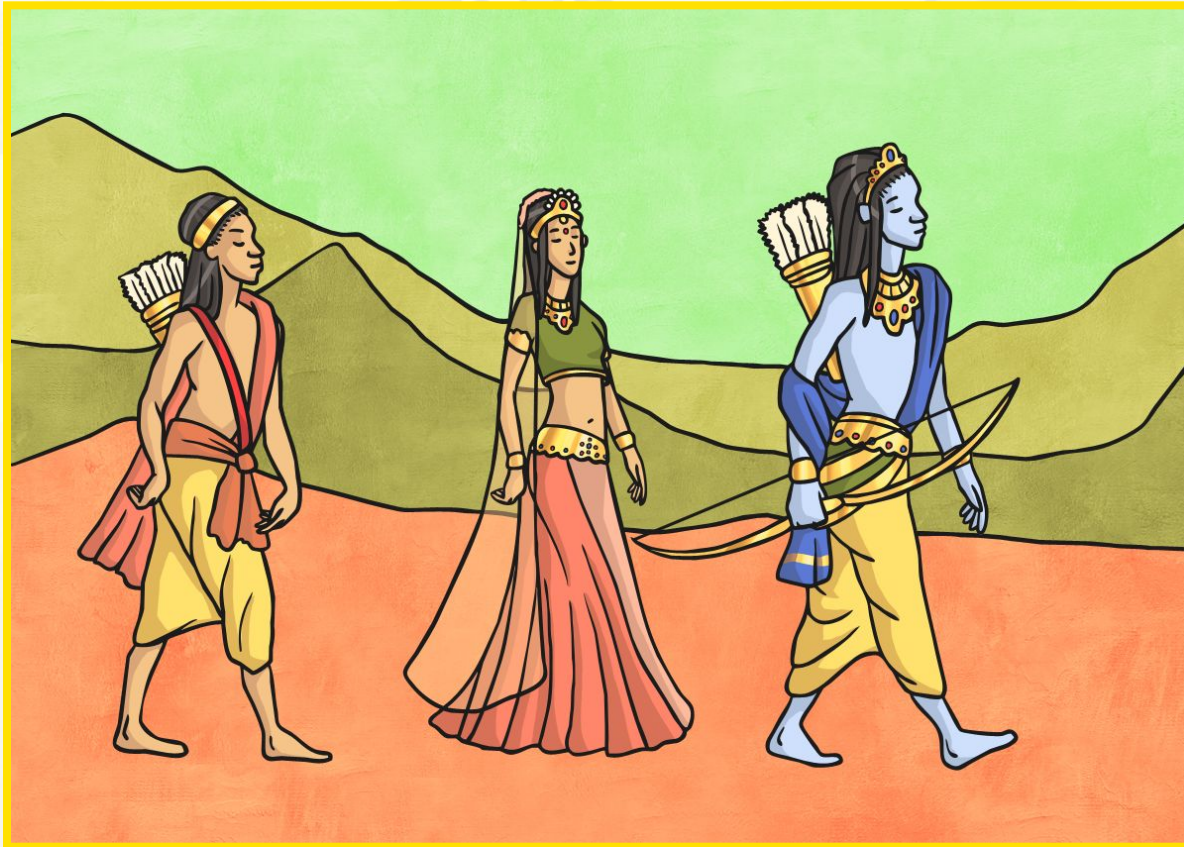
An illustration of Rama and Sita in a forest. Rama, on the left, has a blue complexion, wears a golden crown with a blue gem, a blue tunic, and a yellow sash. He has a bow on his back. Sita, on the right, has a fair complexion, wears a green top, a yellow sash, and a pink skirt. She has a golden crown with a red gem and a bindi on her forehead. They are both looking down with sad expressions. The background consists of green foliage and trees.

The Story of Rama and Sita

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Once upon a time, there was a great warrior, Prince Rama who had a beautiful wife called Sita.



One day Rama and Sita were banished from their home by the King. Rama's brother, Lakshmana, joined them in exile.



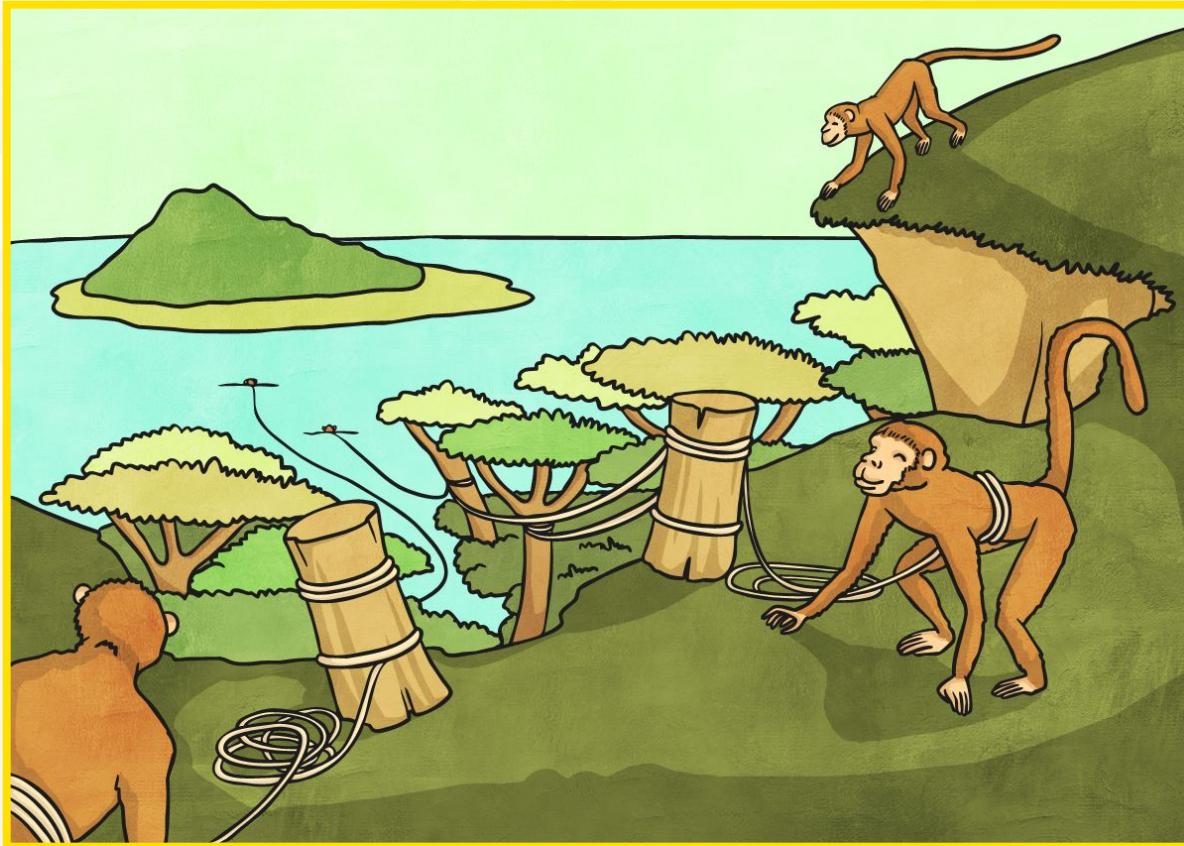
Living nearby was a terrible demon king, Ravana. He had ten heads and twenty arms, and was feared throughout the land.



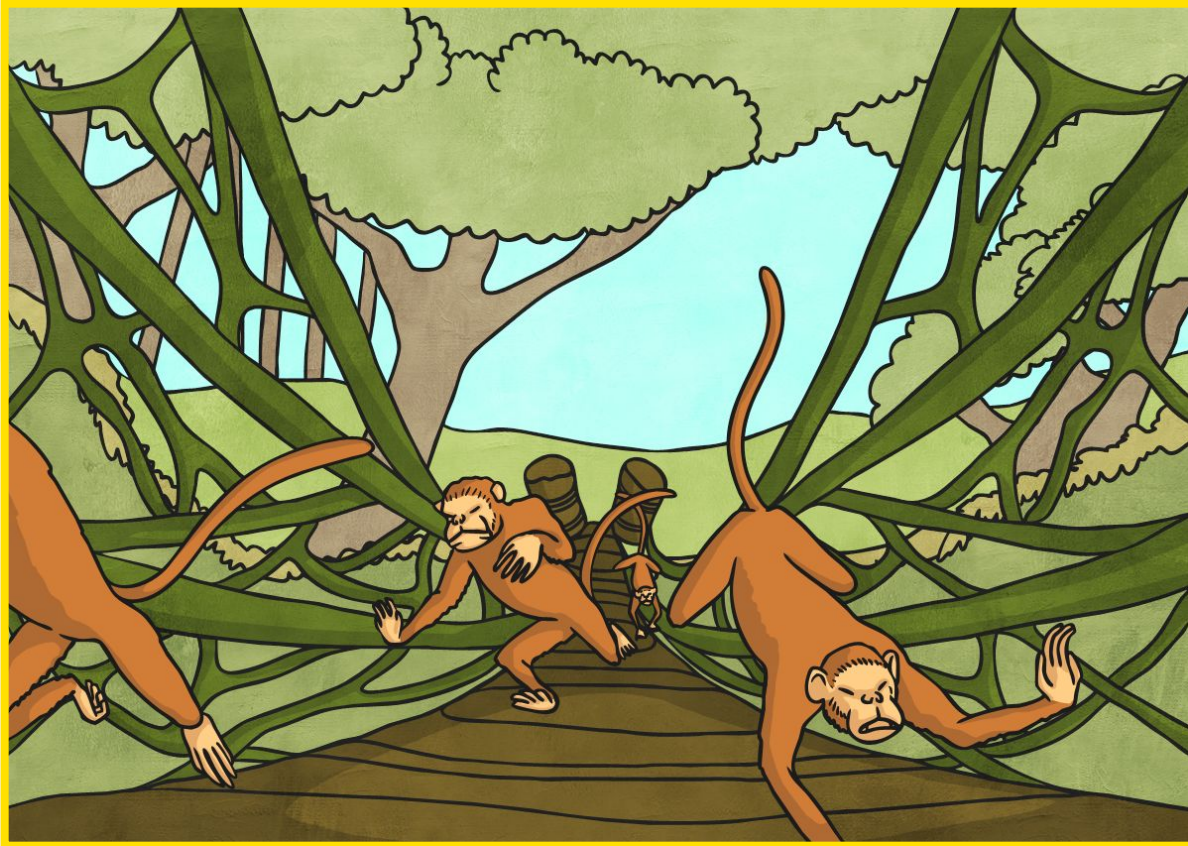
One day, Ravana kidnapped Sita and took her away in his chariot. Clever Sita left a trail of her jewellery for Rama to follow.



Rama and Lakshmana followed the trail of glittering jewellery until they met the monkey king, Hanuman, who became their friend and agreed to help Sita. Messages were sent to all the monkeys in the world who set out to find Sita.



After a very long search, Hanuman found Sita imprisoned on an island. The army of monkeys couldn't reach the island, so they began to build a bridge. Soon all the animals of the world, large and small, came to help.



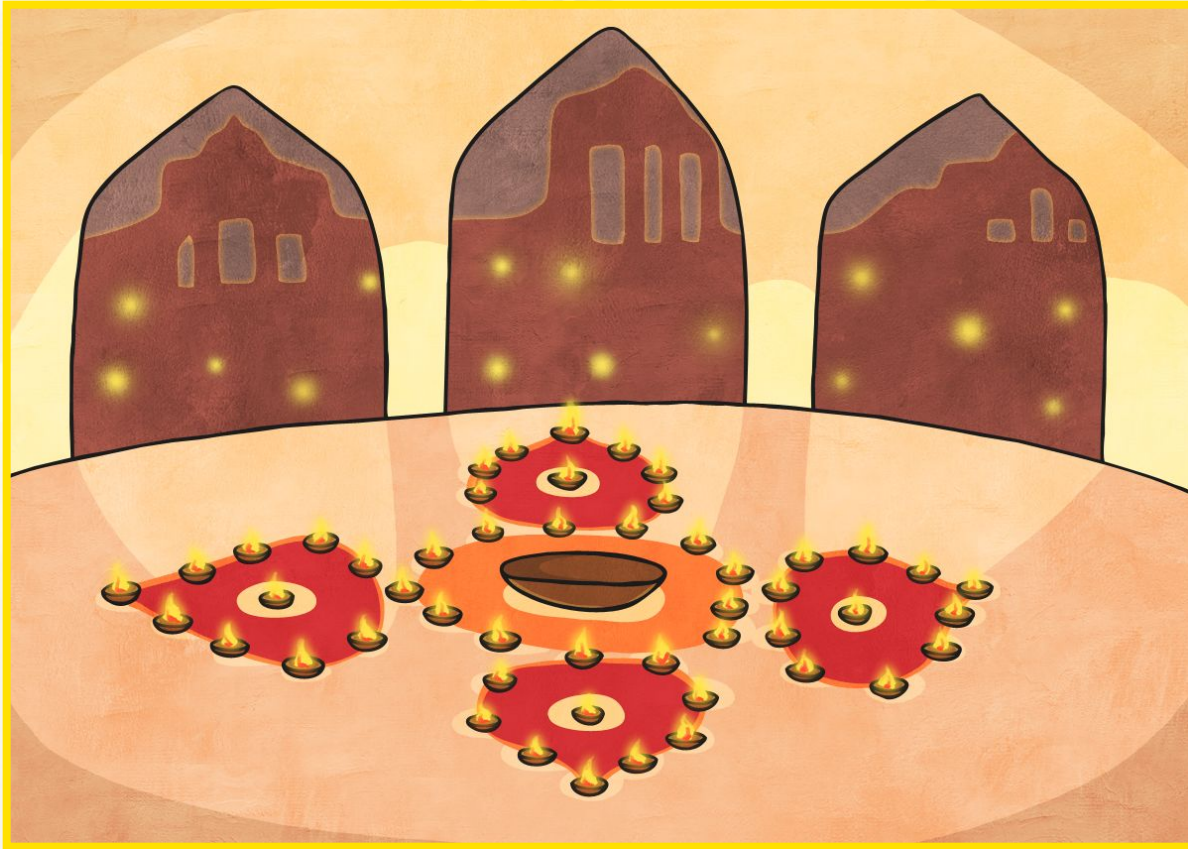
When the bridge was built, they rushed across it and fought a mighty battle.



When Rama killed the evil Ravana with a magic arrow, the whole world rejoiced.



Rama and Sita were reunited and they began their long journey back to their land, and everybody lit lamps to guide them on their way and welcome them back.



Ever since, people light lamps at Diwali to remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil.