

Diwali is an important festival for Sikhs

Here are a number of reasons why a Sikh believes Diwali is an important festival. Using the Diamond Nine grid, rank the reasons from which you think is the most significant to the least significant. Explain your choice of most and least significant reason.



The festival allows us to spend time with our family. It gives us a sense of belonging through sharing it with the rest of the Sikh community.

The festival encourages us to give gifts and cards to family and friends to show that we care about them.

This day (also known as Bandi Chhor Divas) allows us to remember the release of Guru Hargobind and the 52 Rajas kept prisoner by the Mughals.

Diwali allows us to celebrate the success of the virtuous and consider the oppressed. We aim to emulate Guru Hargobind who refused to be released unless the Rajas were too.

Diwali allows us to make a fresh start for the New Year. We clean and decorate our homes, buy new clothes and settle our debts.

Celebrating Diwali allows us to join the festivities with other religions celebrating Diwali - Jains and Hindus. This encourages social cohesion through a shared celebration.

The religious ceremonies associated with the festival allow us to forget the stresses of everyday life and focus on spiritual development.

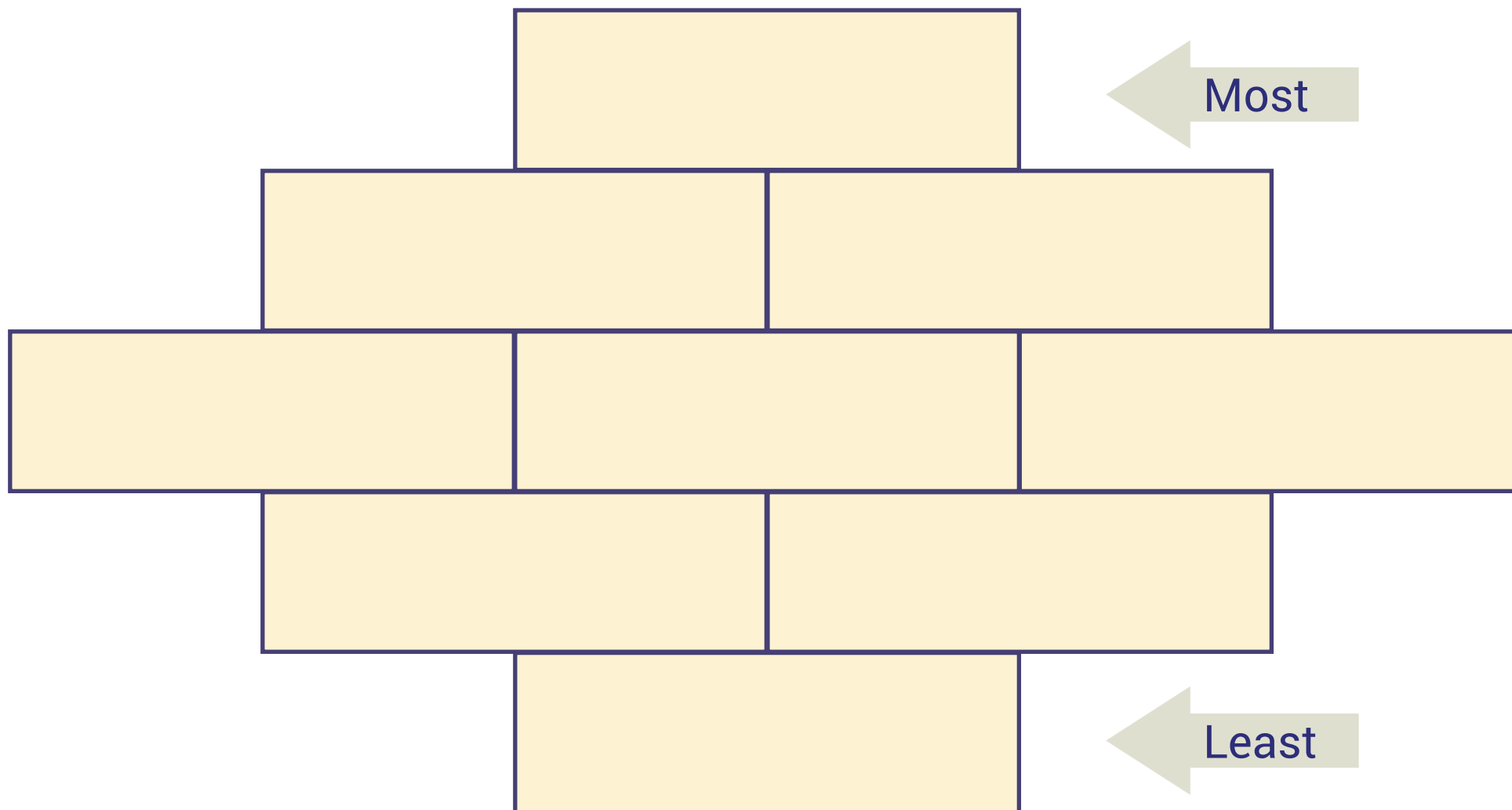
The gifts, parties and celebrations lift our mood. As a result we feel better about ourselves as well as those around us.

The ceremonies enable us to conform to our faith and strengthen it; faith helps us perform our daily duties.

Extension:

Sikhs in Britain also celebrate Diwali. Using the Internet, find out what British Sikhs do to celebrate Diwali. Use a table to show the similarities and differences in the way this festival is celebrated in India and in Britain.

Cut out and glue the arguments, arranging them from most significant to least significant.



Challenge yourself: Arrange the arguments according to which you think a religious devotee would say was the most significant to the least significant. Explain your most and least significant choices.

Similarities and differences between Diwali celebrations in India and the UK.

SIMILARITIES

BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UK.

DIFFERENCES

BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UK.