

# What do Hindus celebrate?

**Today we will be...**

Finding out about the Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan.

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Do you have any brothers or sisters?



Do you play together? Do you ever fall out?



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Today we will be looking at a Hindu festival that celebrates the relationship between brothers and sisters. This festival is called Raksha Bandhan. It takes place in July or August.

On the day of the festival, the sister ties a bracelet around her brother's wrist. This bracelet is called a **rakhi**.



Why do you think they might do this?



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The bracelet is given to the brother to protect him from evil. This come from a story about the goddess Indra. She tied a magic string around her husband's wrist which protected him from an evil demon.

This is where the festival gets its name from. The word 'raksha' means **protection** and 'bandhan' means **tie**.



Here are some more examples of rakhi bracelets.

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As well as giving him a bracelet, the sister will also make a mark with a red paste on her brother's forehead. This is known as **tilak** and is a sign of blessing.



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In return, the brother promises to protect the sister and to look after her in the coming year. He also gives her gifts. The brother wears his bracelet until the thread breaks.



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Just like other Hindu festivals, there are also sweets, music and other celebrations during Raksha Bandhan. It is a time to celebrate with your family.



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What does the festival of Raksha Bandhan tell us about how Hindus see families?



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The Hindu festival of Raksha Bandhan shows us that Hindus see families as being very important. They take the time to make sure that brothers and sisters appreciate each other and promise to care for each other.

This festival is not just for children.

It is a time when brothers and sisters of all ages are reminded that they are tied to their families and that they will always look out for each other, no matter how old they are.



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