ABOUT
Diwali is the Hindu Festival of Lights, celebrated every year in India and Nepal. One of the most important festivals of Hinduism, it spiritually signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Diwali's origins go back to ancient times, when the sun was celebrated during the harvest. Today people still honor the power of the sun during Diwali by decorating their house and communities with symbolic candles. We invite families to create colored candles out of everyday household items. Join the Diwali celebration while participating in this fun family activity, and think about what brings light and hope into your life!

MATERIALS
1. One can of vegetable shortening
2. Glass jar
3. Cup or bowl (microwavable)
4. Crayons
5. Pencil
6. 100% cotton twine
7. Nail or nut (anything that will weigh down the twine to the bottom of the jar)
8. Tablespoon
9. Scissors
INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1
Pick 4 or 5 crayons of different colors you like (depending on the size of the jar). Peel off the paper and set the crayons aside.

Step 2
Cut a piece of cotton twine long enough to go from the bottom of the jar to well over the edge.

Step 3
Tie one end of the cotton twine to a nail or weight.

Step 4
Place the weighted end of the twine in the bottom of the jar, and tie the other end to a pencil. Balance this pencil on the rim of the jar. This will help keep the twine centered as you create the candle.

Step 5
Spoon 2 or 3 spoonfuls of vegetable shortening into your cup or bowl. Add 1 crayon broken into pieces, then microwave for 1 minute (adult supervision required).

Step 6
Stir, making sure all the crayon has melted, and pour into the jar.

Step 7
Let stand until hard. You may put it into the freezer; five minutes will be enough.

Step 8
Repeat with the other colors.