

The festival of Holi

1. As pupils enter

Have the [webpage open](#). Play your chosen music and display either image: [Krishna and Radha](#) or [children celebrating Holi](#).

2. Introduction

'Today we're going to be finding out about a Hindu festival called Holi. Holi has its roots in Hindu communities in countries like India and Nepal, but it is celebrated by people from Hindu and non-Hindu communities alike all over the world. As you watch this short video be on the lookout for information on the meanings behind the traditions of Holi.'

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 14". The final words are: '...And that's why I love Holi!'

4 & 5. Time to talk

Use the Video questions to lead a discussion about what the children have watched:

1. 'The Holi festival is about colour, light and new beginnings. Can anyone tell us how many days Holi Festival lasts for?' (2 days).
2. 'What story about good and evil does Holi remember?' (Holika and Prahlad). Wait for responses. Follow-up with: 'What can we learn from this story?' (Look for an awareness of good triumphing over evil or good over bad).
3. 'The second day of the Holi festival is filled with lots of celebrations such as traditional music and dancing. Another central tradition is colour. Can anyone remember what the colourful powder was called that people cover each other in during Holi celebrations?' (Gulal).
4. 'Can anyone remember why people cover each other in the colourful powder?' (Look for an awareness of the story of Krishna and Radha, or more broadly of people showing a sign of love). Wait for responses. Follow-up with: 'Can anyone remember what the different colours that people use mean?' (Blue = represents the gods; red = love and fertility; yellow = knowledge and learning; green = nature and the start of spring).

6. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing it.

Play video



7. Opportunity to reflect

Focus your reflection on the core themes of the Holi festival - love, new beginnings and happiness:

'Holi is a time for thinking about love, new beginnings and happiness. Think quietly to yourself about the people you love and the things that make you happy...'

Sometimes people can be unkind to us - like in the story of Holika and Prahlad - but the festival of Holi celebrates love and good triumphing over bad...'

It shows us that new beginnings are possible...'

Think about a new beginning you'd like to make...and how you will make it happen...'

8. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual form of address ('Dear God', 'Lord Jesus', 'Let us pray...' etc) and:

'Thank you for the lessons we can learn from the festival of Holi. Help us to share happiness and love with our friends and family and celebrate the triumph of good over evil. Amen.'