

Happy Holi! <i>A short topic, best undertaken at the time of the festival in March / April</i>	Year Group: KS2	No. of lessons: 3
Learning objectives: To explore the stories and activities related to the Hindu festival of Holi.		
Themes to discuss: Standing up for the right. When is it right / wrong to play tricks? Faithfulness. Celebrating as a community.		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Think together about the kind of things you start to see and do when Spring is coming. If you were designing a special celebration to mark the beginning of Spring what would you include and why? How many on this list did you come up with: stories, bonfires, puppets, paint sprays, food, dance, singing? These are all done at the Hindu Spring festival of Holi. • Getting ready – an evening of bonfires. Hear the story of Prahlad and Holika which gives the festival its name. Talk about the idea of bhakti – devotion to God – and how this was demonstrated by Prahlad. Consider whether people (including yourselves) are always good at doing what they know to be right. Would you stand up for anything or anyone as Prahlad did for Vishnu? See photographs / videos of the Holi bonfires, including the roasting of coconuts. Think about times when fire can be used to cleanse things, and here how the bonfire represents good cleansing evil. You could make small clay divas (lamps) to take home, as a way of extending the message of the festival, or make and share coconut barfi (recipe below). • Holi - Hear the story of Krishna and the gopis. Understand that this story encourages the Hindus to celebrate by breaking social taboos, and look at some photographs of the paint throwing activities. Tell the Krishna story together in drama or dance, using bright coloured streamers instead of paints, or make shadow puppets for this purpose. Make a display of cut out spatter painted T shirt shapes (if you really are spatter painting this is best done outside in an area which can be hosed down!). • Watch the short cartoon version of Holi at http://www.hindukids.org/festivals and see if you can now identify /explain what is going on! 		
Websites and resources: http://www.theholidayspot.com/holi/celebration.htm is a website with all you need for Holi, likewise see http://www.indiasite.com/festivals/holi.html which includes some (small) photographs of the festival. Other photographs at http://www.shunya.net/Pictures/Rajasthan/Jaipur/Holi05/Holi.htm and http://www.sanatansociety.org/india travels and festivals/holi general.htm (the ones on these two sites enlarge),		

<http://www.indialife.com/Festivals/holi.htm> the links on <http://www.kamat.com/kalranga/festive/holi/> will give you photographs of some paint covered Holi players. And a paint seller on <http://www.spinopsys.com/archives/296> Holi bonfire photos at <http://www.shunya.net/Pictures/Rajasthan/Jaipur/Holi05/Holi.htm> and <http://arch.ced.berkeley.edu/people/students/branner/jeannieaquilino/01itinerary/03nwindia/03nwindia-Pages/Image2.html> see the making of a Holi yantra with cowdung tower at http://www.sanatansociety.org/india_travels_and_festivals/Holi.htm There are natural recipes for Holi dyes at <http://hinduism.about.com/library/weekly/aa031803b.htm> some of which you can make, but some require Indian ingredients.



A simple recipe for coconut barfi:

175g evaporated milk, 150g desiccated coconut, 100g granulated sugar

Heat the milk and sugar over a gentle heat, stirring occasionally, until the mixture boils. Simmer until the milk has reduced by half. Stir in half of the coconut. Spread in a greased tray and sprinkle the remaining coconut on top. Cut into squares once cooled.