

Holi (Hinduism)

Holi is a Hindu spring festival often called the 'Festival of colours'. It takes place over two days in February or March. Although Holi has religious roots, it primarily marks the arrival of spring and is a festival of fun. There are several legends associated with Holi. A particular one is that long ago there was an evil king named Hiranyakashipu. He had a son called prince Prahlad who often worshiped Lord Vishnu. This infuriated his father who tried to kill his son. Several attempts failed and he finally ordered his sister Holika to enter a blazing fire with Prahlad on her lap.

The demon Holika was meant to be immune to fire but she was unaware that this was only if she entered the fire alone. Holika was burnt to death and Prahlad was safe. The legend goes that before Holika died she begged for forgiveness. Prahlad granted her wishes and said her name would be remembered once a year and so the festival of Holi was celebrated. The celebration is to symbolise good overcoming evil.

Hand Display

Resources

- Story of Holi
- Paint and brushes
- Wax pastels
- Template of hand
- Cartridge paper

Approach

- 1 Introduce the children to the story of Holi. Explain that as part of the celebrations of the festival, people throw coloured powder or water at others.
- 2 Give the children a choice of medium to create their patterned coloured hand. Provide a large template of a hand for them to draw around, cut out and decorate.
- 3 Display the hands on a brightly coloured background with large paper hands decorated with splashes of paint.

