

What do I need?

Copy of page 3 printed onto
A4 card

Spray bottle filled with water

Scissors

Clothing peg

String or twine

Powdered spices, e.g.
turmeric; cinnamon; paprika



Holi festival powder art

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn all about Holi, the Hindu 'festival of colours'.

Carefully spray your page 3 template with a little water to slightly moisten the surface.

Separate your powdered spices into small bowls, then sprinkle a few pinches of each spice onto your template. The idea is to get nice and messy and completely cover the person in colourful powder! You can spray more water onto your page to help the spices stick if you need to.

Once you've finished, hang up your page with your clothing peg so that the water trickles through the spice powders to create nice patterns.

Leave your page to dry, then use your scissors to cut around the template of the person.

Make a small hole in the top of your person and thread a length of string or twine through it. Hang it up on display in your home so that you can enjoy the pretty colours and lovely aromas of the spices.

TIP: If it's nice and sunny outside, why not do this activity outside in the garden so you don't have to worry too much about the mess!



What is Holi?

Holi is a Hindu religious festival celebrating spring, love and new life. Also known as 'the festival of spring', Holi usually falls in March as winter ends and spring begins. For Hindus all around the world the festival is a time of hope and joy as colourful flowers and leaves emerge on trees and plants, bringing hopes for a bright, colourful summer and a plentiful harvest.

On the evening before Holi begins, Hindus light bonfires to represent the triumph of good over evil as told in the legend of the demon king Hiranyakashyap. According to legend, Hiranyakashyap's sister Holika tried to kill his son in a fire as a punishment for worshipping Lord Vishnu.

On the day itself some Hindus hold religious ceremonies but for most it is a time for families and friends to get together and enjoy dancing, singing and throwing colourful powder and water over each other. This is why Holi is often called the 'festival of colours'!

The colours of Holi are said to have begun with the mischievous Lord Krishna who threw coloured water over his milkmaids as a boy. After the colourful celebrations, Hindus traditionally exchange gifts and share food with relatives and friends.



