

The Festival of Colors

Holi is a Hindu festival celebrated throughout India. It honors the coming of spring. It offers people a fresh start and represents good conquering evil.

Another name for Holi is the Festival of Colors. It got this name because people throw colored water and powder at each other on this day. Each color has a special meaning. Red means love and green means spring.

Holi is a holiday that brings people together. Everyone is supposed to be treated like equals. The usual Indian caste system that divides people based on resources does not apply during the celebration of Holi.

Holi has existed in India for hundreds of years. There are various stories that explain its origin. One legend involves a demon king. Another features the blue-skinned god, Krishna.

Holi usually happens in February or March. It takes place on full moon days. Like many festivals, it has songs, dances, and food. Some cities have processions for over 2 weeks!

The colors used in Holi are traditionally made from natural objects, like bark and leaves. Today people like to use brighter colors to make a bigger impact. But the powders, called gulal, are still all natural.

In addition to the powders, people use colored water on Holi too. Water balloons are popular. Some families set up sprinklers or go to the pool.

The night before Holi, people have bonfires to ward off evil spirits. They come together to tell stories, sing songs, and dance. They also eat food like sweet dumplings and pancakes. The traditions of Holi are alive and well today.

What season is associated with Holi?

- A. Winter
- B. Spring
- C. Summer
- D. Fall

What color is Krishna's skin?

- A. Red
- B. Green
- C. Yellow
- D. Blue

What happens to the caste system during Holi?

- A. It is emphasized
- B. It is ignored
- C. It is studied
- D. It is protested

Which of these things would NOT be used to make gulal?

- A. Leaves
- B. Bark
- C. Fake dyes
- D. Flowers

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