

KS1 Hindu Dharma Enquiry

**How does a Hindu
celebrate devotion to a
deity at the festival of
Holi?**



**The *EMMANUEL* Project 2023:
Teaching Hindu Dharma effectively in Key Stage 1**



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

Before you start:

RE is statutory for Key Stage 1 pupils in state-funded schools. RE should:

- 'educate' pupils about religions and worldviews and their impact on individuals, communities and the wider world.
- develop the religious 'literacy' needed to discuss issues of faith and belief in today's society.
- offer a safe space for children to consider their own ideas and demonstrate respect for others.



This unit for Key Stage 1 pupils focuses on the Hindu Dharma concept of Devotion and the festival of Holi. It is important to read the guide to these so that teaching, questioning and assessment reflect them.

It links with common themes in RE syllabuses.

It is designed to last 6-8 hours, taught weekly or blocked. Teachers must decide how to distribute time effectively; guidance is offered below. As they plan, teachers may adapt activities to their particular class / resources but must ensure they maintain the focus on the belief / concept central to the unit.

Learning is developed through an enquiry cycle in which pupils:

- **Engage** with the key concept in their own lives / world (at least 1 lesson)
- **Enquire** into an aspect of Hindu Dharma which relates to the key concept (at least 1 lesson)
- **Explore** a Hindu understanding of the key concept through 3 areas **(i) Hindu text /story (ii) Hindu Community Practice (iii) Hindu Living** (at least 1 lesson on each)
- **Evaluate, Express** and **Extend** their learning about the key concept.

The Resource List in this unit was current at time of publication, but teachers should watch out for new resources to add.

Hindu Dharma

Holi/Devotion



- Celebrates love and new life.
- Called the 'Festival of Spring.'
- Some families hold religious ceremonies, but for many Holi is more a time for fun.
- The main religious message of Holi is that devotion to God will be rewarded.

Watch this subject knowledge video: [Holi](#)

Hinduism is an ancient religion with origins in the Indus valley. It covers a diverse range of beliefs and practices. Hindus prefer the title 'Sanatan Dharma' (eternal truths or teachings) to 'Hinduism', a term coined by European settlers in India. Hindu Dharma is a term which balances both.

What is Holi about?

Holi is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love and new life. It is usually celebrated in March.

It is an ancient Hindu religious festival which has become popular with non-Hindus in many parts of South Asia, as well as people of other communities outside Asia.

Hindu beliefs about devotion can be told through the Holi story.

What is the story of Holi?

There are lots of Hindu legends that are believed to contribute to the meaning of the festival, but there are two that are thought to be the most popular - each one celebrated over the two-day period.

Story 1: The Story of Prahlad and Holika

The Holi festival is a celebration of the victory of good over evil. It is rooted in the story of Hiranyakashyap – an ancient King who claimed to be immortal and wanted to be worshipped as God. However, his son Prahlad was **devoted** deeply to worshipping the **deity** (that is a Hindu



God or Goddess) Lord Vishnu. The evil king plotted with his sister Holika to kill his son because he would not worship him. Holika, who was immune to fire, tricked Prahlad to sit in the pyre with her. When the pyre was lit, Prahlad's **devotion** to Lord Vishnu helped him walk away while Holika was burned to death despite her immunity. The plan failed, and Vishnu defeated the evil king. This is where the festival of Holi derives its name from.

Story 2: The Story of Krishna and Radha

Holi is also celebrated in the memory of the **devotional** love of **deities** Lord Krishna and Goddess Radha.

The Hindu deity Krishna was rather mischievous. He was a playful child who stole butter and played tricks and pranks on his friends.



When Lord Krishna was a baby, his skin turned blue after drinking the poisoned milk of Putana ("The killer of infants" sent by Lord Krishna's evil uncle Kansa to kill him). Lord Krishna would often feel sad about whether the fair-coloured Goddess Radha and other girls in the village would ever like him because of his skin colour. Lord Krishna's mother asked him to go and apply colour to Radha's face with any colour he desired. It is said that, when Lord Krishna applied colour to Radha's face, the pair fell in love.

On Holi, festival participants apply color to each other's skin in honor of Krishna and Radha. It could also be why one of the names of

Holi is the 'festival of love', as it is in part celebrating the **devotional** love between Krishna and Radha.

Who is Krishna?

Krishna is a Hindu deity. He is the eighth incarnation (avatar) of the Hindu God Vishnu, Krishna is seen by many as the supreme God. He is also the God of protection, compassion, tenderness, and love and is one of the most popular and widely revered among Hindus.

Holi is particularly enjoyed by worshippers of the God Krishna. Its general frivolity is in imitation of Krishna's playfulness.

Krishna is a popular focus of **devotion**.

Krishna devotees follow the path of bhakti yoga and express their devotion to Krishna in chanting and dancing.

How is Holi celebrated?

40 days before Holi begins, a log of wood is put in a public place. People will add twigs, dried leaves, branches of trees left through the winter and any other combustible material they can spare. It grows into a sizable heap.

Holi is a two day festival. On the first night of Holi (**Holika Dahan**), the bonfire is lit. People throw roasting grains, popcorn, coconut and chickpeas into it. The bonfire symbolically burns away all the bad and gives way to a colorful and vibrant new future.

On the day of Holika Dahan an effigy of Holika with child Prahlad in her lap is kept on the logs. Usually, Holika's effigy is made of combustible materials, whereas, Prahlad's effigy is made of a non-combustible one.



The next morning is celebrated as **Rangwali Holi** where people smear and drench each other with colours. There is dancing and singing. Distinctions between people are forgotten as everyone looks the same when covered in colourful powder! This is a

reminder of equality and that all people are believed to contain the energy of Brahman.

It is said that during the Holi Festival, the Gods turn a blind eye, and it's one of the few times extremely devout Hindus allow themselves to let loose and normal rules are relaxed.

Holi is filled with ceremonies for the showing of worship and **devotion to** God, religious gatherings and Kirtan (recitation). This time is considered most sacred and spent in **devotional** prayers, visiting holy places or bathing in sacred waters.

At the end of Holi, everyone bathes, wears clean white clothes, visits friends, teachers, and relatives and eats special sweets. The ordered patterns of society are reasserted and renewed.

Other customs

Holi celebrations vary by area.

Breaking the pot is celebrated in the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Here a pot of butter-milk is hung high on the streets. Men form a huge human pyramid and one on the top breaks the pot with his head while women sing Holi folk songs and throw buckets and buckets of water. The tradition has its roots in the mischievous nature of Lord Krishna who was so fond of butter milk that he used to steal it from every house in the village. To hide the butter from young Krishna, womenfolk used to hang it high from the ceilings.

In the state of Bengal, Holi is celebrated as a 'Spring Festival'. Intricate rangolis are made and processions take place in the morning. Clad in a traditional attire young boys and girls sing songs. In other parts of Bengal, Holi is celebrated as Dol Yatra where the idols of Radha and Krishna are placed on a decorated palanquin (a large box carried on two horizontal poles by four or six bearers) and taken out in a procession.



How does a Hindu celebrate devotion to a deity at the festival of Holi?

ENGAGE

Teacher's note: Holi originated in Northern India but is celebrated by Hindus around the world. It marks the season of romance, joy and restoring broken relationships. It is a national holiday in India and Nepal with regional holidays in other countries.

When do we celebrate?

Show the word CELEBRATE. Ask what it means. When do we celebrate? Show a range of photos from different celebrations (a useful list is found below). Can children identify what is happening in each image? Ask what is being celebrated during each.

Alternatively, you could bring in 'clues' for each celebration e.g. birthday candles, easter card, fairy lights etc.

Birthdays	Christmas	Easter	Weddings	Halloween	Christening
Mother's day	Father's day	Harvest	Guy Fawkes	Chinese New Year/ New Years Eve	Sporting events

How do we celebrate special times?

Think about customs – singing celebratory songs, sending greeting cards, giving presents, eating special foods. Which celebrations include all these customs. Which include only some?

Why are celebrations a happy event?

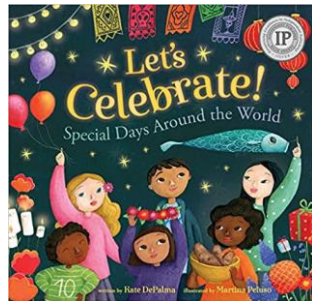
*Do read the subject knowledge notes on **HOLI/DEVOTION** so you are well-informed about the key beliefs underpinning this unit.*

You may have children in your class who are from different religious backgrounds and therefore may take part in different religious celebrations. If this is applicable to your class allow time for them to share their celebrations.

Create a list of feeling words to accompany the images. Discuss the 'happy moments' in any celebration. Which celebration is the happiest? Can children agree?

Help the class engage with why these celebrations happen. Include more than one worldview e.g. not everyone who celebrates Christmas or Easter does so for religious reasons.

What is your favourite celebration?



My favourite celebration is...

because...

Ask children to draw or paint a picture of a memorable celebration. Create a class display of favourite celebrations. Alternatively, read a book on world festivals or celebrations. For example, Let's Celebrate: Special Days Around the World by Kate DePalma (also read [here](#)) Then make your own class 'Let's Celebrate' book from children's favourite festival memories.

What is Biva's favourite celebration?


Introduce Biva. She and her family are Hindus. Prepare a letter (see below) and a parcel of clues from Biva to the class. The parcel could include a Happy Holi card, small water pistol and some powder paints.



Circle time might be a good way to discuss the festival questions.

An assortment of cards can be found online to print.

You can choose any character with any name. It would be great if you had a persona doll to use. See RESOURCES

	 <p>Hi everyone! My name is Biva and I am a Hindu. There are lots of Hindu people all over the world. We believe in lots of different deities. Deities means our Gods and Goddesses. We have lots of different ones! They all tell us something about what our one God is like. At home we pray to God every day. And I go to the mandir too. I really love having fun and celebrating. Last week was my birthday and I had a party with my friends. But what I really love the most is the festival of Holi. It is my favourite celebration. And I am going to tell you all about it!</p> <p>What would you like to know? I have sent you some clues to help you work out why I love it so much!</p> <p>Allow children the opportunity to think of some questions to ask Biva. Write these in a letter to send back to her.</p> <p>Talk about the word 'deity' and add it to a display and encourage children to use it in their responses.</p>	
<p>ENQUIRE</p>	<p>Teacher's note: Holi is a celebration of the victory of good over evil. It is rooted in the story of Hiranyakashyap – an ancient King who claimed to be immortal and wanted to be worshipped as God. However, his son Prahlad was deeply devoted to worshipping Lord Vishnu and refused to worship his father instead. It was this devotion to Vishnu which kept him safe. In the story, Hiranyakashyap is finally destroyed by Vishnu. In Hinduism, Vishnu is one of the trimurti, one of the most significant forms of Brahman (God or the ultimate reality).</p> <p>Read a new letter from Biva. Include in the envelope pictures from the story.</p>	<p>For teachers only - watch this retelling of the story. The word 'boon' means a divine blessing.</p> <p>Print off pictures of the characters. Some are included in appendix 2</p>



Hi everyone! It's me, Biva. Thank you for your questions about Holi my favourite celebration! My mum read them to me before our story at bedtime. My mum knows loads of Hindu stories all off by heart. I have sent you some pictures from a very famous Hindu story. We listen to this story every year at Holi. It is about a bad king and his good son called Prahlad. Do you like stories? What stories do you hear at times of celebration?

What stories do Hindu families share during Holi?

Tell the class they are going to hear the story. It is a very special story which is very old, treasured and told by many Hindus. It is called the legend of Holika and Prahlad. The festival name Holi comes from the name Holika.

The main characters are: The evil King, his son Prahlad, Aunt Holika and Vishnu one of the Gods. Remind children that Hindus have lots of different deities - Gods and Goddesses (that tell them something about what the one God Brahman is like).

Versions of the story can be found [here](#) [here](#) or [here](#). You can find a short written copy of the story in Appendix 1 at the back of this resource. You may want to watch more than one version as each contain different details.

After watching:

- Do some booktalk. Ask the children to think about the parts of the story they liked, disliked or found puzzling.
- Ask: Who was good in the story? Why did Prahlad survive the fire?

Explain Prahlad survived the fire because he was **devoted** to the God Vishnu. This meant he loved him very much. Because of this devotion he was rescued. Devotion means loyalty or love for someone or something. It is a much bigger feeling than just liking something very much. You can't really be devoted to chocolate! But you might be devoted to a person or maybe a pet.



Most Hindus believe in one God or eternal life force- Brahman. The Gods and Goddesses express different aspects of what Brahman is like. No need to go into too much detail.

How is this story celebrated at Holi?



Look at photos of the first day of Holi where people build giant bonfires to remember the story and the importance of good winning over evil.

Biva explains –

Hi! It's me, Biva. I hope you liked the story. I love listening to stories about the different Hindu deities. Vishnu is my favourite. Prahlad loved Vishnu too. That's why Vishnu kept him safe in the fire. Every year during Holi we remember the story and how much Prahlad loved Vishnu. We light big bonfires and throw popcorn and grains into the flames. Do you have any celebrations which include bonfires? I think they are really exciting. I like to go right to the front but my sister Bina is too scared!

Pupils use art materials to make flames for a display around the image of Prahlad and Holika.

Optional - What can we find out about Vishnu?

Show children different images of Vishnu. Pictures help Hindus remember Vishnu.

- Can children think of words to describe him? How might these qualities be shown in a picture? Pupils can paint or draw Vishnu.

Vishnu has blue skin and with four arms. His hands always carry four objects representing the things he is responsible for. He rides on the King of Birds, Garuda, who is an eagle.


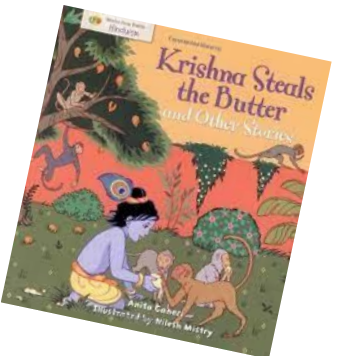
How can we respond to the Holi story?



In response to the story pupils could also:



Vishnu is the second god in the Hindu Trimurti. The other two Gods are Brahma and Shiva. Brahma is the creator of the universe and Shiva is the destroyer. Vishnu is the preserver and protector of the universe.

His role is to return to the earth in troubled times and restore the balance of good and evil.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act out the story with puppets • Think about who or what they are devoted to in their own life. • Send some pictures of the story to Biva or pictures of what or who they think they are 'devoted' to. 	
<p>EXPLORE (1)</p>	<p>Teacher's note: More than one story is told at Holi. This second story celebrates the love between Radha and Krishna. Krishna is an incarnation (avatar) of Vishnu. The story also explains why Holi is sometimes called the 'Festival of Love'. For many Hindus Krishna is the focus of bhakti - loving devotion. This is a way for many Hindus to feel close to God.</p> <p>Who is Krishna?</p> <div data-bbox="548 614 660 821">  </div> <p>Biva explains - Hi everyone! It's me Biva. Holi is still my favourite festival. We get to do lots of fun things like playing with colours, dancing and running in the streets. Everyone joins in. It makes me feel a little bit naughty! Krishna was a bit naughty too. When he was growing up he liked playing tricks on people. Do you like playing tricks? My big sister Bindu is always playing tricks on me and I don't like it one bit! But at Holi everyone plays tricks even the adults!</p> <p>Explain that Krishna is a famous hero in lots of stories. He is also a deity. He is popular and well loved by many Hindus.</p> <p>What can we learn about Krishna?</p> <p>From reading the stories do the class agree that Krishna was naughty? What else can we find out about him?</p> <p>Read the story of Krishna steals the Butter. A version is found in appendix 3 at the end of this resource. Or watch here. Pause the video when the butter drips on Krishna's hand from above. Can any children predict how they manage to reach and steal the butter?</p> <div data-bbox="1355 1037 1691 1396">  </div>	<p>Maybe start this lesson by listening to the song Naughty from Matilda the musical here</p> <p>Krishna takes on the role of a mischievous boy in this story.</p> <p>To put right all the wrong in the world Vishnu is said to come down to earth from time to time.</p>

	<p>Read the story of Krishna and Radha. A version is found in appendix 3.</p> <p>Ask the class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did Krishna feel sad? • Can they imagine how the story may have ended differently? What if Krishna's actions made Radha angry? • What different advice could his mother have given Krishna? <div data-bbox="512 443 678 611">  </div> <p>Children write love letters to Radha from Krishna. Or make her a colourful gift. What does it feel like to love someone?</p> <p>Challenge pupils to act out or freeze frame the stories. Can they draw Krishna and record what they know about him?</p> <p>OR children could retell the story using stick puppets. Telling stories through puppet plays is very popular in India. You could prepare a simple script for individual voices and a narrator.</p> <p>OR Miniature paintings of Krishna and the milkmaids, especially Radha, always show them in idyllic surroundings in the great forest of Vrindaban. It is still a tradition to paint such scenes. Children create and colour some of their own forest scenes.</p> <div data-bbox="1391 759 1697 991">  </div> <p>OR Listen to a song celebrating Radha and Krishna played at Holi: Radha Krishan song</p>	<p><i>Throwing colours during Holi is a reminder of Krishna being not just mischievous but throwing colour paint at Radha.</i></p>
<p>EXPLORE (2)</p>	<p><i>Teacher's note:</i> On the day of Holi, people celebrate by playing with colours, dancing and running in the streets. Water pistols are filled with coloured water and squirted on family, friends and strangers. Dyed powders and water balloons are a big part of the play. Many will wear old clothes, usually white, in anticipation of the mess! Virtually anything goes, including rude humour, practical jokes and teasing—all excused with the saying, "Don't mind, it's Holi!" (Hindi: Bura na mano, Holi hai).</p>	<p><i>KS2 video useful for teachers to watch</i></p>

How does celebrating Holi remind Hindus of Krishna?

Look at an image from Holi:

Complete

At Holi Krishna is remembered when...



Can children make the link to the actions of people at Holi and the stories of Krishna?

I wonder... what would it feel like to be at Holi?

Look at different images of Holi being celebrated. Encourage children to use their senses to describe what they could see, hear, smell and touch. Start recording ideas together on a flip chart.

- What are people doing?
- How do you think they feel?
- Can you remember why they are celebrating?

Explain some families will be joining in with Holi because they are Hindu and want to celebrate and think about God. Others will be joining in simply because it is fun.

How does a Hindu family celebrate Holi?

Receive another letter from Biva.



Hi! It's me Biva! I love Holi especially the day after the bonfire. My mum makes sure we all wear some old clothes and we go to temple. In the afternoon we throw coloured paint on each other. I like to throw water balloons. There are loads of different colours to choose from. What's your favourite colour? My brother Raj likes to run around with his super soaker getting everyone

There are lots of different clips of Holi being celebrated online.

very wet! In the evening we get changed, visit friends and eat lots of sweets. What would your favourite part of Holi be?

Watch a video of Holi. Can children spot any of the activities Biva mentioned?
Choose from:

[CBeebies - going to temple at Holi](#)

[CBeebies - preparing for Holi](#)

[BBC Earth - filming Holi](#)

Add new sights, sounds and smells to the flip chart.

What Holi activity would you enjoy the most?

Use the statements in appendix 4. Children use the statements in different ways:

- Ordered from enjoy the most to enjoy the least
- Sorted by emoji
- Pick out the activity which is... the messiest? The funniest? The quietist?
Helps remember the Holi stories?
- **I wonder... which parts of the celebration might help Hindus remember that Vishnu is a wonderful God? Or how naughty Krishna was growing up?**



Arrange some aspects of the Holi celebration for children to join in with. This could form part of a carousel of different activities. For example:

- listening to Indian music
- dancing a simple dance which retells the story. Watch a dance [here](#)
- sharing sweets
- designing Happy Holi cards
- tie dying plain white tshirts with lots of colour
- producing colourful art works e.g. adding drops of paint on a paper and using a straw to blow the drops of paint so they splatter. Or splatter paint using paint brushes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using natural products to create coloured dyes • shredding coloured paper into small strips to recreate the throwing of coloured paint 	
EXPLORE (3)	<div data-bbox="515 341 795 671" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Teacher's note: Many Hindus worship every day at a shrine in their house. This is usually kept in the cleanest room to show respect to Brahman. For some this will be a few pictures on a shelf in the living room or kitchen. Others will dedicate a whole room. During Holi, images of Radha and Krishna are placed on the shrine. Devotional songs are sung and the story of Radha and Krishna retold.</p> <p>Where at home do you keep your special objects?</p> <p>Children reflect on where they keep special objects. What about places which are special in the home? E.g., a collection of family photographs, a place where trophies are displayed, certificates from school, or memory boxes.</p> <p>What special place do Hindu families have in their home?</p> <p>Explain that the shrines vary from family to family. They vary in terms of size and location and they contain images of different deities, depending on which ones the family worships (families may worship the same deity for generations). Children may remember seeing some of these in previous film clips.</p> <p>Play this clip again and talk about the shrine: CBeebies - preparing for Holi</p> <p>Pause the clip. Can children identify the objects found on the shrine?</p> <p>What objects do some Hindu families place on a Hindu shrine? /What senses are used in Hindu worship?</p> <p>Share photographs of various Hindu home shrines. Ask how each is different.</p> <p>Allow children the opportunity to handle genuine artefacts if you have them.</p>	<p>The shrine will contain important objects that are used for worship. The most important type of worship is the puja ceremony, which uses all five senses.</p> <p>You might have a puja tray in your Hindu artefacts box in your RE resources at school</p>

These may include:

- Pictures of the Gods or statues (murtis). By showing love and respect towards these Hindus believe they are showing devotion and love to God.
- Bell – rung to wake up the Gods
- Diva lamp – brings light to the shrine and a symbol of God's presence
- Incense – a pleasant smell for the gods
- Water and spoon – to offer water to the Gods as an act of love
- Kum kum powder – to make a mark (tilak) on the foreheads of gods and people to show devotion
- Fruit/sweets or flowers – an offering for the Gods. Food may be eaten after as prasad (blessed food)

How do Hindu families use a shrine at Holi to show devotion?

Read a letter from Biva:



Hi everyone. We have a shrine at home. It is in the corner of our kitchen and a very special place. My mum prays and makes offerings to the deities for us first thing every morning. We light the holy flame and sing together. We remember we are protected and loved. It makes me feel peaceful and relaxed. Our shrine is devoted to Vishnu. I sit in front of him and pray for everyone to be happy and for God to make me a better person. Do you have anywhere special in your house? At Holi we add Radha and Krishna to the shrine. We decorate them with flowers and offer them food to show our devotion. We retell Krishna stories. When we pray we ask for God to help us be like Prahlad and show love to him.



Small, colourful plastic images of Radha and Krishna can be bought quite cheaply online. Ask children what they can see? i.e. a dancing, crowned, flute playing, handsome, blue male figure with a beautiful companion (often carrying a pot on her head).

Images of gods (murti) should not be placed on the floor.

They are used to focus and help worship.

If a shrine is built or a puja set displayed, it should be placed on a surface which has been cleaned and covered by preferably a red cloth (never a white one as this colour is associated with mourning).

If you don't have real artefacts print images from online and cut them into simple jigsaws. Can children assemble the pieces and describe what they see? Can they draw their own murti of Krishna and Radha?



What else can we find out about devotion during Holi?

In some states of India, there is also a tradition to place the idols of Radha and Krishna in a decorated palanquin, which is then carried along the main streets of the city. All this while, devotees chant Krishna's name, sing devotional hymns and dance in the name of the lord.

Suggested activities to support this lesson:

- Children annotate an image of a Hindu child praying at a shrine. A speech bubble captures a spoken prayer. Another bubble captures thinking and feeling words are captured in a heart outline.
- Provide outlines of Radha and Krishna to decorate
- Make a model of a Hindu shrine during Holi
- Give the children a collection of pictures showing different activities that take place during puja. Next, give the children some cards with a brief explanation of why each of the rituals is performed. Can you match the explanations to the pictures?
- Light a candle and ask children to look at the flame and think quiet thoughts. How did the flame make them feel?



'Murtis' show how deities have been drawn and sculpted for thousands of years. Each Murti has wise messages in the carefully drawn details to help Hindus remember the wisdom in their special stories. These stories and messages help Hindus find answers to their worries and questions on how to live a good and happy life.

EVALUATE your RE learning in this unit	<p>Teacher's note: <i>Decisions about assessment should be made before starting the unit but this is a good point to stop and think! The following may help:</i></p> <p>What have we learnt? How well have we learnt?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Try a mind map – together as a class or in groups. • Encourage children to record/ share what they have learnt as individuals. • Use a quiz • Use the class RE scrapbook to discuss your learning journey together. • Consider how to answer any remaining questions. <p>Can we answer the big question at the start of the unit? How well?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use discussion to construct an answer together. • Encourage children to self-assess and justify their decisions. • Use SOLO taxonomy hexagons in groups or individually. 	<p>Please remember that different schools have different requirements. Check with your RE Subject Leader.</p>
EXPRESS your RE learning and share it with others	<p>Teacher's note: <i>You will have done a variety of different kinds of work during the unit which may already have been shared with others. In the 'expressing' be sure to encourage the use of key words from the unit.</i></p> <p>Here are some more ways you might share your learning with others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create displays about Holi • Use the sensory ideas collected during the second engage lesson to share your learning with another class • Act out one of the stories • Hold your own Holi celebration • Make a shrine 	<p>These activities often provide the chance to gather evidence needed for the end of year expectations or to judge what has been learnt and how well.</p>
EXTEND	<p>Teacher's note:</p> <p>Hold a discussion around the Big Question - Why do people celebrate?</p>	

**Think philo-
sophically**

- Puzzle over the related 'Big' question together, collecting different ideas, and learning to listen carefully to others
- Make simple links between the 'Big' question and the beliefs and traditions of people they have met /learned about

Appendix 1

The story of Prahlad

Once there was a cruel and wicked king, who thought that he was so important, that everyone should worship him, just as if he were a god. The king had a son called Prahlada. Prahlada worshipped one of the most important Hindu gods, called Vishnu. He knew that his own father was not a god and that it was wrong to worship him.





When Prahlada refused to worship his father, the king became furious and he had his own son thrown into a pit full of hissing snakes. But the god Vishnu protected Prahlada and he came out of the snake-pit without a bite. Then the king grew even more furious and ordered his son to be trampled on by a herd of elephants. But again, Vishnu protected Prahlada and he was unharmed.

The wicked king had a wicked sister called Holika. 'I shall ask her to help me,' he thought. Holika had magical powers, which meant that she could not be burned by fire. Together Holika and her wicked brother the king made a plan. Holika took Prahlada to the top of a huge bonfire, expecting him to be burned up in the fire. But Prahlada prayed to Vishnu and suddenly Holika disappeared into the flames. Her magic powers were destroyed and Prahlada was safe.

And so Prahlada, who put his faith in Vishnu, was saved. Finally, Vishnu appeared as Narasimha – half man, half lion and the king was defeated.

Hindus tell this story to help them remember that however bad things are, the force of good is more powerful than the force of evil.

Appendix 2 – pictures of the Holika story

	The King		Holika
	Prahlad		Vishnu
pictures here			

Appendix 3 – Krishna stories

Krishna and the butter

When Krishna was a child he loved butter. He would go into other people's houses in the village with his friends and eat any butter, yogurt or milk he could find. All the mothers in the village were very annoyed and started tying their pots of butter to the ceiling so that Krishna or his friends couldn't reach them.

One day Krishna asked all his friends to help him steal some of the butter. But his friends refused to help him. They didn't want to get into trouble. However, after a while they gave in and promised to help Krishna.

Together the boys climbed up onto the roof of one of the houses in the village. They moved the tiles to try to get to the pots of butter but it didn't work. So they tiptoed into the house and climbed on each other's shoulders to create a human ladder and they stole the butter that way! One of the pots they couldn't reach so they hurled a pebble at it and took turns to catch the butter with their open mouths.

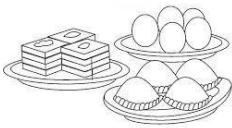


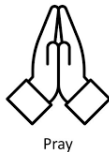





Krishna and the boys ate everything they could. Then Krishna took the butter and fed what he couldn't eat to the monkeys.

Krishna became worried that his mother would find out and be cross, so he ran and hid. His friends escaped quickly but his mother did find out. When she saw the mess Krishna had made she was very cross indeed. But when she found him his face was wet with tears. She was overcome by motherly love and her anger faded away.

Krishna and Radha

When he was young, Krishna grew up to become a cow herder. Because of this he used to spend a lot of time outside playing with the girls who milked the cattle. They were called the milk maids. Krishna used to play tricks on them like stealing their belongings. One of the milk maids was called Radha and she was very beautiful. Krishna loved her very much. One day, Krishna visited his mother. When he saw her he cried and cried. He felt very sad. He loved Radha but thought she would never love him back because his skin was blue. Radha had lovely pale coloured skin. His mother had an idea to make him feel better. She joked that he should go and colour Radha's face in whichever colour he wanted! In a mischievous mood, naughty Krishna did just as his mother suggested and played a prank on Radha. He threw some coloured paint onto Radha making her skin blue just like himself. But Radha wasn't cross. Instead it made her love Krishna and the two of them loved each other for the rest of their lives.

Appendix 4 – Sorting statements about Holi

<p>Eating sweets</p> 	<p>Playing with friends</p> 	<p>Throwing paint</p> 
<p>Visiting temple to pray</p> 	<p>Squirting water</p> 	<p>Visiting family</p> 
<p>Dancing</p> 	<p>Singing</p> 	<p>Bonfire</p> 

Resources for this enquiry:

In this unit, Biva is an imaginary Hindu character who enables a teacher to present things Hindu children learn or do in a way which is easier to handle than talking abstractly about religious people.



You can create your own Biva or additional family members by using cartoon characters, persona dolls or photos of children from school library books or schools' programmes on the internet. Two similar children, Tom and Tessa, were created for the EYFS and the KS1 Christianity units. The names of the children are immaterial; feel free to change them.

Sometimes scenarios can be created around their lives to start a discussion. Sometimes they help by bringing in a bag containing Hindu artefacts or books!

Asian Girl Persona Doll available at - <https://shop.re-today.org.uk/160111>

Books:



My Hindu Family – Gill Vaisey available [here](#)

Amma: Tell me about Holi by Bhakti Mathur (ISBN: 978-9881239532)

Happy Holi by Joyce Bentley (ISBN: 978-1526306425)

Festival of Colors by Sehgal, Surishtha, Sehgal, Kabir, Harrison, Vashti (ISBN-13978-1481420495)

Krishna Steals the Butter and Other Stories: Stories from Faith: Hinduism by Anita Ganeri (2008-09-15)

