Scouts Scotland

Beavers | Cubs

Holi

March 9th

The Hindu festival of colours

Holi, a festival originating in India, is a spectacularly beautiful and colourful event, as well as a great excuse to get extremely messy!

This activity contributes to the following badges:

What Is Holi?

Holi, the festival of colours, is a Hindu festival that celebrates spring, love, and new life.
Holi is seen as a very fun festival and for many families in India it's a time to enjoy dancing in the street, singing and covering each other with brightly coloured powders and water

The Story Of Holi

Holi traditionally dates back to the legend of Holika and Prahlad...

There was once a demon king who who was so vain he commanded everybody in his kingdom to worship only him. But to his great disappointment, his son, Prahlad became a devoted follower of Lord Vishnu instead and refused to worship his father this way

The demon king tried several ways to kill his son but Lord Vishnu saved him every time. Finally, he asked his sister, Holika to enter a blazing fire with Prahlad in her lap. Holika had a special cloak, whereby, she could enter the fire unharmed

Deceitfully, Holika persuaded young Prahlad to sit in her lap and she herself took her seat in a blazing fire. But Holika had to pay the price of her evil with her life as the cloak jumped on to Prahlad and saved him from the flames.
Holi therefore takes its name from Holika and is celebrated as a victory of good over evil

What Happens On Holi?

On the first night of Holi, people light bonfires and throw roasting grains, popcorn, coconut and chickpeas onto them. The next day, people of all ages go into the streets for fun and paint-throwing!

Activity 1 (20m)

Get into the colourful spirit of Holi with some **bubble wrap printing**. You will need:

- Sheets of bubble wrap
- Various washable paints
- Sellotape
- A4 paper/card

1. Tape a square of bubble wrap to the table/floor
2. Squirt a few different colours of paint onto the bubble wrap
3. The young people can make patterns in the paint using either their hands or simple tools
4. When finished press the paper/card onto the paint to make a print and hang to dry

Activity 2 (20m)

There are many water-based games to celebrate Holi. These are best played outside and with the permission of parents!

Save the Water Game
Players must hold a plastic cup of water whilst jumping over a skipping rope a set number of times- the player with the most water left in their cup at the end wins

Wet Sponge Relay Game
Players must compete in teams to fill an empty jar with water by collecting a wet sponge from a bucket and squeezing it into the jar. First team to fill their jar wins

Chopsticks Balloon Game
Players must transfer filled water balloons from one bucket to another using only chopsticks. Points are deducted for any burst balloons!

Thought about peer leadership?
Could one of your young people lead this activity for their Section?