

 **Read for details.** Work with a partner. Answer questions 1–3 about your festival only.

**Student A:** Read about the Orange Festival.

**Student B:** Read about the Festival of Color (Holi).



### The Orange Festival

It's a cool February afternoon in the small town of Ivrea<sup>1</sup> in Northern Italy. The streets are usually quiet, but today they're full of people as the four-day Orange Festival begins. The "Carnevale di Ivrea" is over 900 years old. It celebrates the story of a girl named Violetta. She killed the town's evil<sup>1</sup> leader and freed<sup>2</sup> the people of Ivrea. The festival remembers the fight that took place between the people of Ivrea and the evil leader's soldiers. In the original fight, people threw rocks at the soldiers. Today, participants throw oranges. At the start of the Orange Festival, a young woman dressed as Violetta speaks to the people and gives them candy. After that, the orange fights begin. To participate, you need to join a team—you can be on a team of "freedom fighters" or soldiers. If you don't want to fight, you must wear a red hat. Then no one will throw oranges at you. It's a lot of fun!

<sup>1</sup>Something evil is very bad.

<sup>2</sup>To free people means to let them go.



### The Festival of Color

The Festival of Color, also called Holi, is a popular spring celebration. It takes place every year, usually in early or mid March, in India and other countries like Nepal and Sri Lanka<sup>1</sup>. In Indian mythology,<sup>3</sup> an evil woman tried to kill a young man named Prahlad by burning him in a fire. Because Prahlad was a good person, he escaped<sup>4</sup> from the fire unhurt. Today, people remember this event by lighting large fires in the streets on the night before Holi. The fire is a symbol<sup>5</sup> of the end of all bad things. The next day, Holi, celebrates the start of spring and a new beginning. To celebrate, people gather in the streets. They throw colored powder into the air and say, "Holi Hail!" Others throw colored water or powder at each other. By the end of the festival, the streets are filled with color and smiles!

<sup>3</sup>Mythology is a collection of very old traditional stories.

<sup>4</sup>If you escape from something bad, you get away from it.

<sup>5</sup>A symbol is something that represents something else. For example, a picture of a heart is a symbol of love.

1. Where and when does it take place?

2. What is the purpose of the festival?  
What event does it celebrate?

3. What do people do at the festival?

**Scan for details; Categorize information.** What festival is each sentence about? Write *O* for Orange Festival and *H* for Holi. Write *B* if both answers are possible.

Scanning—  
quick reading  
to find a  
specific  
piece of  
information.



- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. It's celebrated in different countries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It's about an old story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. It celebrates good over bad.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. You throw things at people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. You need to join a team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The day before, people light a fire.