



A Festival of Colors

Vocabulary

Hindu people in India and **all over** the world **celebrate** Holi, or the **Festival** of Colors. They celebrate it on the day after the full moon in February or March. The festival celebrates the beginning of spring. It also celebrates how good is stronger than evil.¹ In the old days, people celebrated Holi for five days. Today, most people celebrate Holi for two or three days. It is a time for Hindus to **relax** and **have fun**. During the festival, all people—rich and poor, men and women, young and old—are **equal** and enjoy this time together.

2 Before the festival, the streets are full of people. They are buying and selling **powders** of different colors such as green, red, blue, and yellow. The women make special foods to eat for the festival. On the night before Holi, the men and boys make a big fire. Families sing and dance around the fire.

3 The next morning, the fun begins. People don't work on this day. They wear their old clothes so they don't get color all over their new clothes. Then they go out into the streets. First, they **throw** powders of different colors at each other. Colors cover everyone from top to bottom. After that, they start to throw colored water on one another. By the end of the day, everyone is a walking rainbow² of color! When they get home in the evening, they wash their faces, bodies, and clothes to get the color out. Everyone is happy at the end of the day because it was so much fun!

² rainbow: lines of color you see in the sky when it is sunny and raining at the same time

all over

celebrate

equal

festival

have fun

powders

relax

throw

Vocabulary in context

1. During the festival, people stop work and take time to _____.
2. In the morning, people throw _____ of different colors at each other.
3. During Holi, one person is not more important than another. Everyone is _____.
4. Hindus _____ the world enjoy the Holi festival.
5. Hindus _____ Holi every year on a day after the full moon in February or March.
6. People buy colored powders and _____ them at each other.
7. For 2 or 3 days during Holi, people _____. They do things to be happy.
8. During the Holi _____, people throw powders at each other and have fun.

Looking for main ideas

1. What does the Holi celebrate for?

a. how good is stronger than evil b. big fire

2. Why do people call Holi the Festival of Colors?

a. throwing colored powders. b. painting

Looking for details (True or False)

1. Hindus celebrate Holi on the day before the full moon in February or March.
2. In the old days, people celebrated the festival for five days.
3. Before the festival, people buy powders of different colors.
4. On the morning before Holi, men and boys make a big fire.
5. People wear new clothes on Holi.
6. When they get home, they paint their faces, bodies, and clothes.