

Colours of Spring

Holi Festival

Spring is a time for celebration; the cold, bleak, barren days of winter are drawing to a close and life is returning to the land.

In India, the Hindu festival of Holi is one of the biggest festivals of the year. Its timing varies each spring (depending on the moon) but it usually falls at the end of March. Holi is a time of merriment, joy and hope at the beginning of the growing season.

The Festival of Colour

Known as the 'festival of colour', the festival begins with the lighting of a bonfire on Holi Eve. The next day, the main festivities begin. Adults and children cover each other in **gulal**, a fine powder that comes in lots of different colours. Each colour is said to symbolise something different in Hinduism:

Colour	Meaning
green	life and happiness
yellow	knowledge
white	purity
blue	determination



Questions

1. In which month is Holi usually celebrated?

2. Which word is most similar in meaning to **merriment**? Tick **one**.

☐

sorrow

☐

laughter

☐

festival

3. How does the festival begin?

4. **Find and copy** one word which means **celebrations**.

5. Which colour of gulal would you choose for yourself, and why?
