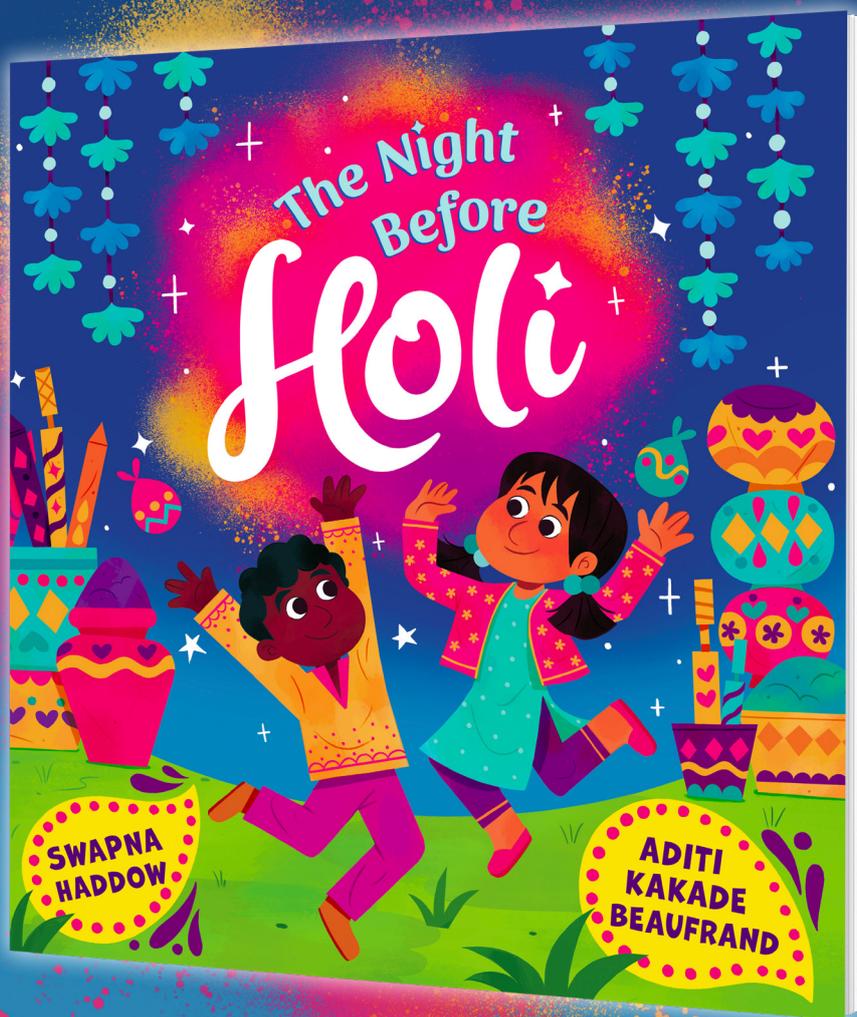


THE NIGHT BEFORE HOLI

lesson plans



 SCHOLASTIC

Illustrations © Aditi Kakade Beaufrand, 2025

RECEPTION

Colour, Love and Springtime

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To recognise different signs of springtime
- To create a piece of collaborative art with a friend

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Children will identify objects or photographs of springtime things
- Children will make a handprint flower with a friend to celebrate Holi

RESOURCES

- *The Night Before Holi* by Swapna Haddow and Aditi Kakade Beaufrand
- Resource Sheet 1: Rainbow Tags
- Resource Sheet 2: Springtime Things
- A selection of springtime toys and objects (see suggestions below*)
- String

LEAD-IN

Share the book, *The Night Before Holi* by Swapna Haddow and Aditi Kakade Beaufrand with your class, enjoying the rhythm and rhyme of the text. Encourage the children to talk about which parts of the book they liked the best. 'Facts About Holi' is a useful page to explore when you get to the end of the book. Emphasise the words 'Holi is a festival of colour, love and springtime.' Combining the three themes together, encourage the children to think about what they love about springtime and the colours they associate with the season.

Before the lesson begins, place a colourful selection of springtime objects around the learning environment. Using **Resource Sheet 1: Rainbow Tags**, cut out the rainbow tags and attach them with string to each object (to indicate that these are the springtime objects you would like the children to find).

*These objects can include:

- Toy animals associated with springtime such as chicks, ducklings, baby rabbits (kits), lambs, and tadpoles
- A selection of realistic toy birds' eggs and a nest
- A puddle made of shiny card
- A child's umbrella, wellington boots and raincoat
- A rainbow
- A sun
- Springtime flowers such as tulips, daffodils, and cherry blossoms
- Some pussy willow

If time and resources are limited, use **Resource Sheet 2: Springtime Things** and attach the rainbow tags to a selection of springtime photographs of all the colours of the rainbow and more.

Show the children a large paper rainbow and explain that springtime is a season of rainbows as there can be plenty of sun and rain that together can make a rainbow. Explain that they are going on a springtime hunt around the learning environment, each looking for one springtime thing (with a rainbow tag). When they have found their springtime thing, they can come back to the carpet to share it with their friends.

When all the children have returned to the carpet, place the large rainbow on the floor. Ask each child, one at a time, to come and place their object (or photograph) on the rainbow. If they can match their object to its rainbow colour, they can place it on that part of the rainbow; for example, a child with a daffodil could place their object on the yellow part of the rainbow. If an object is not of a rainbow colour, the child can place it onto their favourite colour. Once all the springtime objects have been placed on the rainbow, take a photograph of the children with their rainbow, celebrating their love of springtime and the colours it brings.

MAIN TASK

Remind the children that Holi is a festival of colour, love and springtime. Explain that we can show love at school by sharing, taking turns and working together. Explain to the children that they are going to work in pairs to make handprint flowers to celebrate Holi, taking it in turns to add handprint petals to their flower using springtime-coloured paints such as pink and yellow. Ask each pair of children to write their names on a circle of card, which can be placed in the centre of the handprint flower to show the children that they worked together to make it. These colourful springtime flowers can be displayed around the learning environment to celebrate Holi, the festival of colour, love and springtime.

EXTENSION

The Night Before Holi is a book that is sure to inspire you to embrace the colourful celebration of Holi throughout your learning environment. There are endless possibilities for children to explore many different colours and textures. Here are just a few examples:

- There are organic, plant-based, eco-friendly Holi colours that can be bought, and are safe for the skin and the environment. These can be used to have a 'Holi fight' outside, just like in the book. (The children will need to wear old clothes for this activity)
- Make a class handprint rainbow
- Colour-mixing of paints with pipettes on squares of paper kitchen-towel
- Rainbow rice sensory play with a variety of scoops and containers
- Transient art using springtime things such as cherry blossom, pussy willow and realistic toy eggs and feathers
- Balloon art (dipping different-sized inflated balloons into trays of different coloured paints and pressing lightly onto the paper)
- Make 'Grandad's Favourite Mango Lassi' (following the recipe on the last page of the book)

CURRICULUM LINKS

LISTENING, ATTENTION AND UNDERSTANDING

- Listen attentively and respond to what they hear with relevant questions, comments and actions when being read to and during whole class discussions and small group interactions;
- Make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding;
- Hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers;

SPEAKING

Children at the expected level of development will:

- Participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas, using recently introduced vocabulary;
- Offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate;
- Express their ideas and feelings about their experiences using full sentences, including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions, with modelling and support from their teacher.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

- Hold a pencil effectively in preparation for fluent writing – using the tripod grip in almost all cases;
- Use a range of small tools, including scissors, paint brushes and cutlery;
- Begin to show accuracy and care when drawing.

COMPREHENSION

- Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary;
- Anticipate – where appropriate – key events in stories;
- Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during role-play

CREATING WITH MATERIALS

- Safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques, experimenting with colour, design, texture, form and function;
- Share their creations, explaining the process they have used.

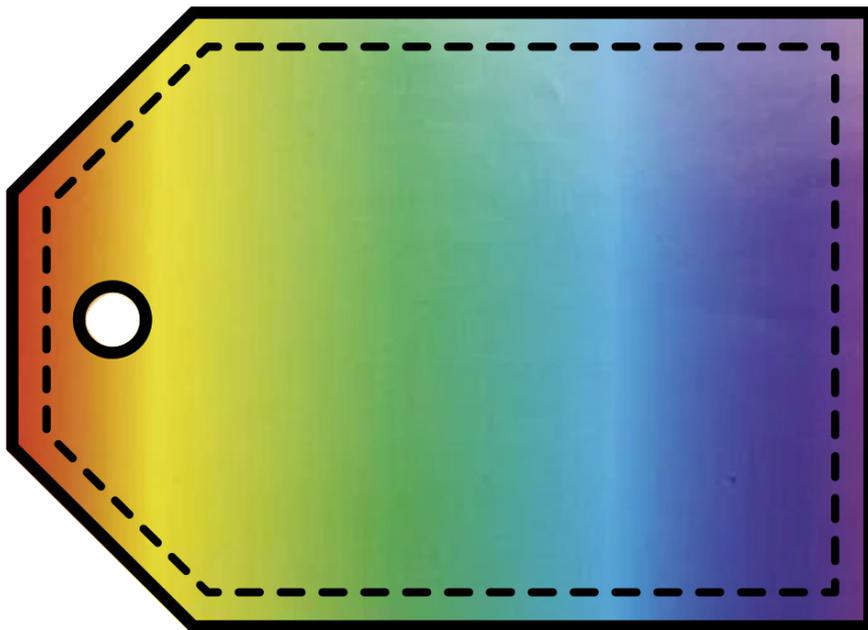
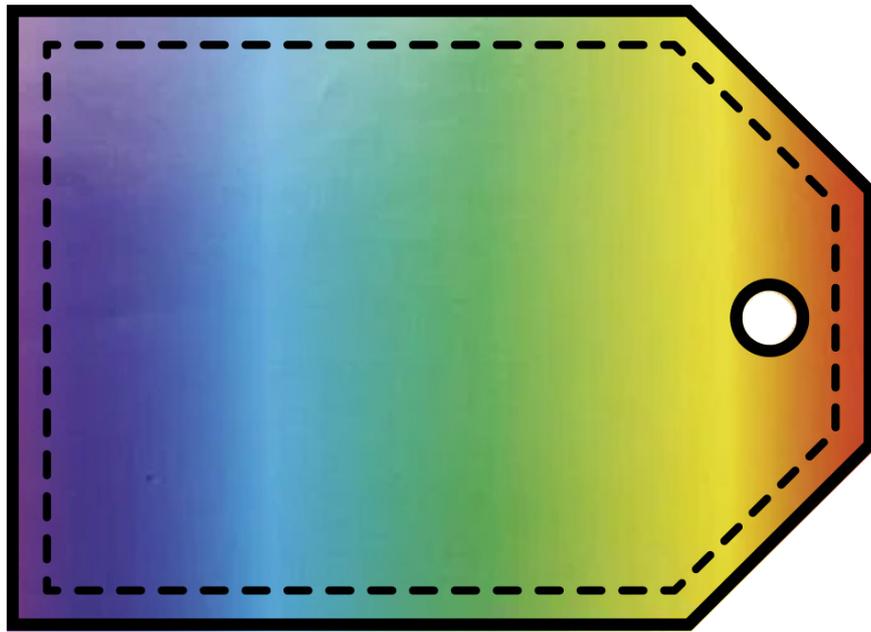
THE NATURAL WORLD

- Explore the natural world around them, making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants;
- Know some similarities and differences between the natural world around them and contrasting environments, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class;
- Understand some important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including the seasons and changing states of matter.

RESOURCE SHEET 1

Rainbow Tags

Attach these tags with string to springtime objects for your class to find.



RESOURCE SHEET 2

Springtime Things



KEY STAGE ONE

Colours of Springtime

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To recognise that the Hindu festival of Holi is a celebration of colour, love and springtime
- To draw and write about colourful signs of springtime

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Children will explore a variety of 'springtime things' for every colour of the rainbow
- Children will make a rainbow book to celebrate Holi and their favourite 'springtime things'

RESOURCES

- *The Night Before Holi* by Swapna Haddow and Aditi Kakade Beaufrand
- Resource Sheet 1: Colours of Springtime
- Resource Sheet 2: Rainbow Book
- Sticky notes, felt-tip pens

LEAD-IN

Share the book, *The Night Before Holi* by Swapna Haddow and Aditi Kakade Beaufrand, with your class, enjoying the rhythm and rhyme of the text. Encourage the children to talk about which parts of the book they liked the best. How does the book make them feel? Would they like to have a Holi colour fight? Do they wish they could jump inside the book and join in with the fun?

Return to 'Facts About Holi' at the end of the book and focus on the first sentence, 'Holi is a festival of colour, love and springtime'. Encourage the children to share their love of the colours of springtime and collect a paint palette of their ideas. Ask the children to choose a colour of the rainbow, then to close their eyes and try to think of one of their favourite springtime things of that colour. (Depending on prior learning, it may be useful to go for a 'springtime walk', watch a short video about aspects of springtime or look at some springtime photographs beforehand). Give each child a sticky note and ask them to go and draw and/or write what they have chosen, if possible, using a felt-tip pen of their chosen colour.

Using an enlarged copy of **Resource Sheet 1: Colours of Springtime**, ask the children to add their favourite springtime things onto the corresponding colours of the paint palette.

MAIN TASK

Explain to the children that they are going to use their ideas to make a rainbow book to celebrate colour, love and springtime. Using **Resource Sheet 2: Rainbow Book**, each child can make their own individual concertina rainbow book (alternatively, these can be enlarged and done in small groups where each child writes about one rainbow colour).

Before the children begin to draw and write in their rainbow books, choose some of the sticky notes on the paint palette and encourage the children to extend these into sentences verbally. Then, model how to write these sentences using the correct punctuation. Each sentence should begin with 'I love...' and the children should be encouraged to use adjectives to add description to their sentences.

Here are some examples:

I love the red tulips that grow in my grandma's garden.

I love the orange sunset at the end of a warm spring day.

I love the yellow daffodils that are blown to and fro on a windy spring day.

I love the green shoots that pop out of the soil in the springtime.

I love the blue sky that that makes me feel joyful that spring is here.

I love the indigo hyacinths that smell so fresh, growing in a pot on my windowsill.

I love the violet crocuses that tell me it's spring when they appear in my garden.

EXTENSION

Remind the children that Holi is a festival of colour, love and springtime. Explain that at school we can show love by working together to make something for everyone and that together we are going to make a beautiful springtime picture to celebrate Holi. Using a display board as a simple springtime background with green grass, a blue sky and a blossom tree, ask each child to paint one springtime thing that can be added to the scene. Once dry, the class collection of springtime things can be added to the display board – this may include a collection of yellow daffodils and some speckled blue blackbird eggs in a nest.

Some of the children's rainbow books could be opened out to make a beautiful border for the display. The other rainbow books could be stood around a display of real springtime things to complement the display, with of course a copy of the book that inspired this learning, *The Night Before Holi*.

CURRICULUM LINKS

READING

Develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read and understanding by:

- Year One – Listening to and discussing a wide range of poems, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently
- Year Two – Listening to, discussing and expressing views about a range of contemporary and classic poetry, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently

WRITING

- Year One – Sequencing sentences to form short narratives
- Year One – Introduction to capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks to demarcate sentences

SCIENCE

- Observe changes across the four seasons
- Observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies

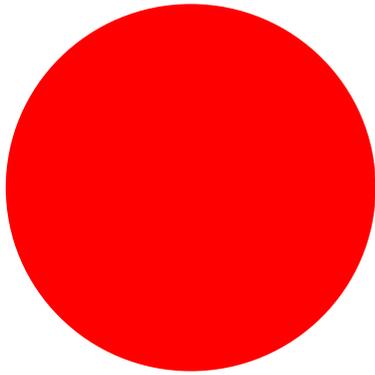
ART

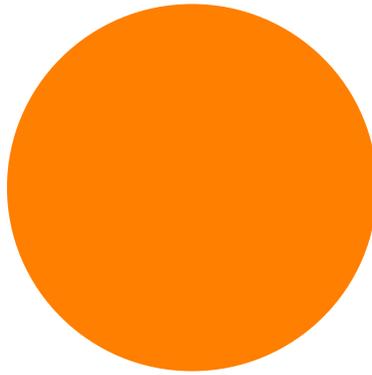
- Use a range of materials creatively to design and make products
- Use drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share their ideas, experiences and imagination

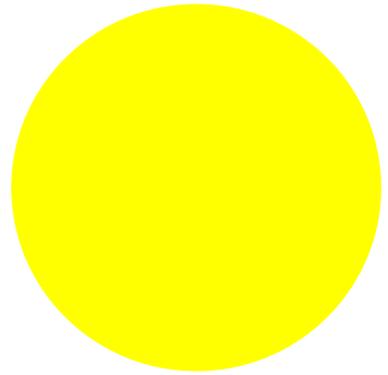
RESOURCE SHEET 1

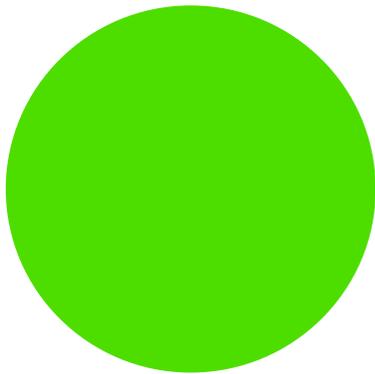
Colours of Springtime

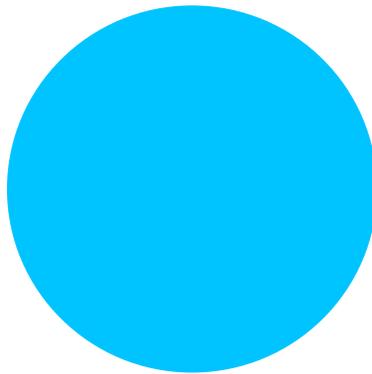
Can you think of a springtime thing for each colour of the rainbow?

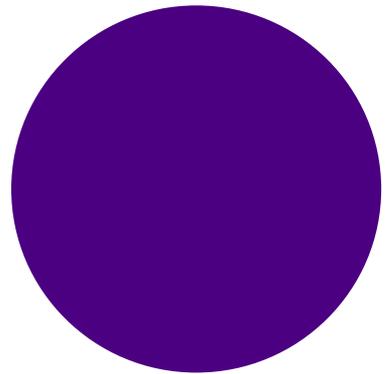


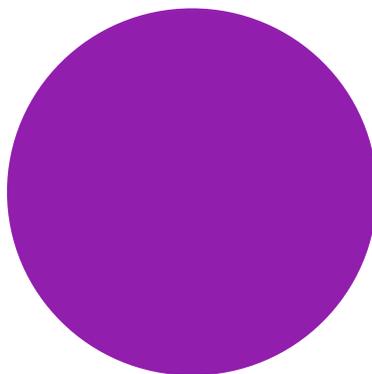












RESOURCE SHEET 2

Rainbow Book

Can you draw and write about your favourite springtime things for each colour of the rainbow? Fold the solid lines, cut along the dotted line and stick the two parts together to make a concertina book. Watch your teacher demonstrate first.

<p>Colour, Love and Springtime by</p> <hr/>	