

Spring festivals

The children in our poster are all having fun celebrating festivals. Encourage discussion about similarities and differences in the images, and ask children to recall personal experiences of springtime festivals

Activities to support the Early Years Foundation Stage framework

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Explore the image of two Indian girls playing during the festival of Holi. Tell the children how Lord Krishna played tricks on his friends. Explain that children remember this during Holi by throwing coloured powder at each other. Cut out life-size paper outlines of children, brush them with water and have fun sprinkling powder paint on them.
- Explain that the Sikh boys pictured are wearing traditional clothes during a street procession in India during the festival of Baisakhi. Compare the turbans they are wearing with the kippah, or yarmulke, worn by the Jewish boy. Explore other religious head coverings, such as the hijab worn by Muslim women. Provide a selection of fabrics and hats for children to use to cover their heads.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Explain that the poster is about spring festivals. Are the children familiar with any of them? If so, invite them to share their experiences. Which image do they like best and why?
- The Jewish boy pictured is eating matzah bread during the festival of Pesach. Take in some matzah bread (or crackers) and ask children to describe how it looks, smells and tastes.

Mathematics

- Reintroduce the image of the Jewish boy and explain the strict rule that unleavened matzah bread must not be cooked for longer than 18 minutes so that it does not rise. Put some dough matzah bread in a role-play oven and set a timer for 18 minutes to give children an idea of how long this is.
- Look at the picture of the boy hunting for eggs and explain that Easter egg hunts are a tradition associated with Easter. Hide hard-boiled eggs outdoors and use positional language, such as 'under', 'behind' and 'next to', to help the children to find them.

Understanding of the World

- The Sikh boys are wearing traditional clothes. Talk about different occasions when people wear special clothes, for example at work, for parties or to keep safe. Try on examples of these clothes, such as uniforms, costumes and party wear.
- Ask children what kind of eggs the boy in the poster has discovered. Invite comparisons between hen's eggs cooked in various ways and chocolate Easter eggs. Make eggs for an egg hunt by moulding papier mache into oval shapes, leaving them to dry and then decorating.



How to use the poster

Create an interactive display entitled 'Spring festivals'. Divide a display board into four using coloured ribbon and mount the poster in the centre. Label the four sections 'Holi', 'Baisakhi', 'Easter' and 'Pesach'. Hang relevant children's artwork, photographs, pictures, labels and captions within each one. Suspend EYFS links on cards in front.

On a table below, display artefacts and books associated with these festivals. Invite parents to contribute resources from their own cultural festivals and encourage them to explore it with their children.

Physical Development

- Revisit the image of girls playing during Holi. Bake biscuit 'children' using a gingerbread cutter and spatter coloured icing onto the cooled biscuits to represent the coloured powder thrown by Lord Krishna.
- Point out the little boy discovering the hidden eggs and talk about other Easter egg games. Use hard-boiled eggs to play games, such as 'Hunt the egg', 'Egg and spoon' and 'Egg rolling'.

Expressive arts and design

- Ask the children to look carefully at the poster image of the egg hunt before creating a collage version of the hidden eggs. Cut out cardboard egg shapes, decorate them, glue them to a sheet of paper and then spread a layer of PVA glue over the whole sheet. Sprinkle grass over it to hide the eggs.
- Explain that the Sikh boys are taking part in a procession during Baisakhi. Describe the traditional bhangra dancing associated with this time when dancers follow the beat of a drum, often wearing ankle bells. Invite children to make up their own dances by dressing in bright fabrics, shaking bells and beating drums.

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