

Religious Studies Topic of the Month

March 2023

What is the significance of festivals in society today?

Topic of the month aims to stimulate discussion at Key Stages 4 and 5 and bring religion to life. This can be achieved by considering religion's relevance in our vast modern world. We have selected two current news articles which you may wish to read and integrate into your teaching practice, using the discussion prompts provided.



Disclaimer:

This topic relates to two articles, written for the BBC* and the Guardian* entitled "Holi 2023: What you need to know about the festival of colours" and "Holi festival celebrations in India and around the world – in pictures".

Introduction

This article refers to the meaning and history of the Hindu spring festival of Holi.

Link to article 1 (BBC): <https://bbc.in/3ZQ6PGL>

Link to article 2 (Guardian): <https://bit.ly/3l3cv1u>

Discussion prompts

- How are the three pillars of the Hindu community shown during the festival?
- How does experiencing the festival of a religion become part of a person's identity?
- Holi is linked to two Hindu legends. How are they represented in the celebration and what is their significance?
- Many Hindus try to rid themselves of impurities at this time, how and why do they do this?
- Loosened behavioural constraints feature in the celebrations. How far do you think behavioural constraints should be loosened?
- Why might someone not belonging to the Hindu faith wish to join in with this celebration?

Links to topics on the syllabus:

- Hindu sacred festivals
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Hindu sacred festivals
- Hindu worship
- Emergence of Hindu traditions