Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Infants Activity Pack

Week 11 - Term 2

Phagwa or Holi



Phagwa or Holi is the festival of **colour**. **Phagwa** celebrates the beginning of **Indian Spring** and the **Hindu New Year**. It is a festival that is enjoyed by **Hindus** and non- Hindus in our country. This year the festival will be observed on **Friday 18th March**. In Trinidad and Tobago, **Phagwa** activities normally take place on the Sunday before the actual date.

There are several origins of the festival. One of them is the story of **Prahalaad** and **Holika**. **Prahalaad** was a young Hindu prince and a devotee of Lord Vishnu. He refused to worship his father who was an evil king. His father tried to kill him because of this. The king's sister, **Holika**, was given the task of destroying **Prahalaad**. She tried to burn him. He survived and **Holika** died instead. The festival is associated with ideas of **rebirth**, **renewal**, **reconciliation** and **love**.



How is Phagwa or Holi celebrated?

Here are the main highlights of the festival in Trinidad and Tobago.



During the Phagwa festival, there **is a joyful display of colour**. A vegetable dye called **abeer** is used. Abeer comes in many colours and is thrown or sprayed on participants either by hand, pvc pipes or balloons. The dye takes the form of a powder, but it may be mixed in water to create liquid abeer. **The dye represents the ashes of Holika.**

Special songs called **chowtal** are sung. Singing is accompanied by the playing of **dholak drums** and dancing. Competitions are held amongst school choirs and temple groups.



Pichakaree competitions are held. **Pichakaree is an East Indian musical form**, which originated in **Trinidad and Tobago**. Pichakaree songs reflect social topics and are sung using a mixture of Hindi, English and Bhojpuri words. This musical form was introduced by Ravi Ji, the spiritual leader of the Hindu Prachar Kendra. Pichakaree competitions are an important part of the Phagwa celebration.

Places of Celebration

At our playgrounds

Before the pandemic, there were several places around our country wher festival would have been observed in a grand way. Here are two places:



Aranguez Recreational Ground



Palmiste Park

Wearing white clothing is traditional. The white clothing allows the abeer colours to look more vibrant.



DID YOU KNOW?

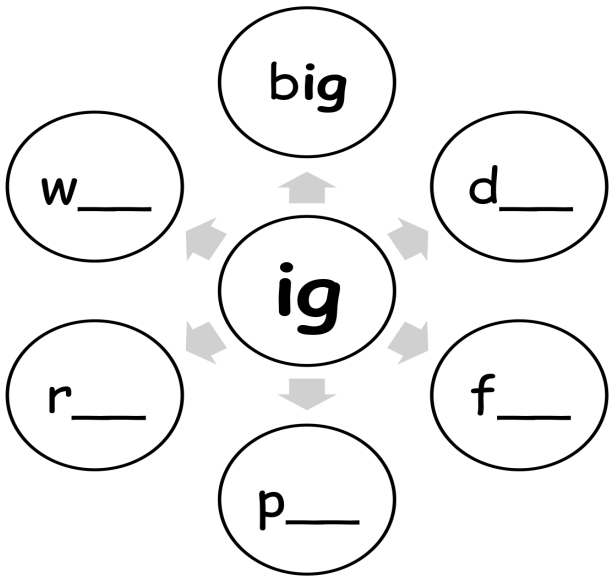
A **pichkari** is a shiny brass instrument, which looks like a large syringe. It is traditionally used at Phagwa celebrations to squirt abeer on participants.

Look at other places on page 4!

Word Family – 'ig'

Infant 1

Write '**ig**' in the blank spaces. Read the words.
Colour the circles.



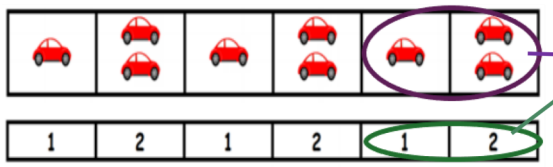
Read the sentences.

A big pig in a wig has a fig.

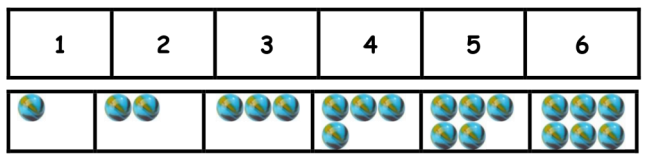
The big pig can dig.

Repeating and Non-Repeating patterns

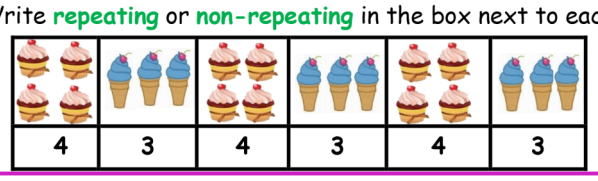
Look at the **order** of the pictures and numbers and see how they **repeat**.

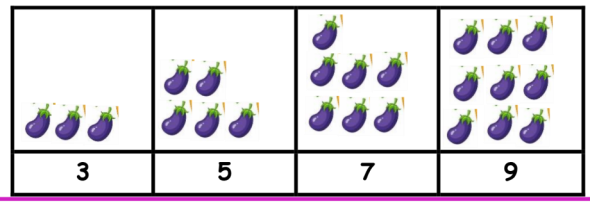


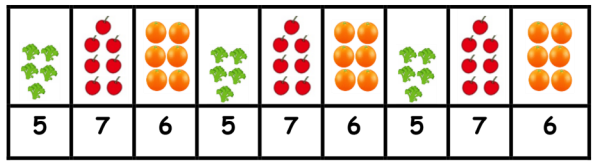
Now, look at the **order** of the pictures and numbers below.



Write **repeating** or **non-repeating** in the box next to each pattern below.

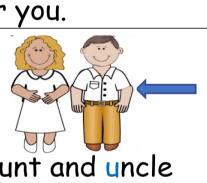
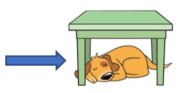






Short 'u'

Draw lines to match the pictures and words with the short u sound to the other words. One is done for you.

up		 aunt and uncle
umbrella		 up
uncle		 unhappy
under		 umbrella
unhappy		 ugly duckling
ugly		 under the table

Making a Picture Chart

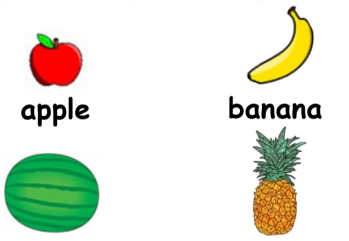
Remember! An **object chart** is made using **real objects**.

Here is a picture of an object chart that shows the favourite fruits of 8 children.

Favourite Fruits

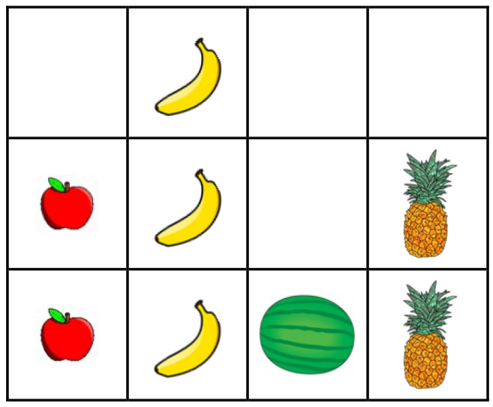


To make a picture chart, you replace each of the real objects with a picture or drawing of the object.



Here is the **picture chart**.

Favourite Fruits



Answer these questions on the **picture chart**.

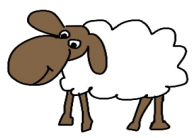
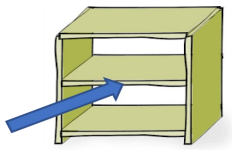
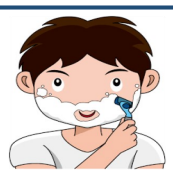
1. How many children chose banana as their favourite fruit? _____
2. Which fruits did the same number of children choose as their favourite? _____
3. Two more children said their favourite fruit is watermelon. Use drawings to show this on the picture chart.

Infant 2

'sh' words

Put the correct word under each picture.

shake	shark	shave
sheep	shelf	shell
ship	shirt	shop ✓

 **shop**	 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____	 _____
 _____	 _____	 _____

Read the sentences.



Shane shaves and puts on his shirt and shoes.
He shakes hands with Sham on the ship.

Comprehension

Sam and Jenny's Picnic

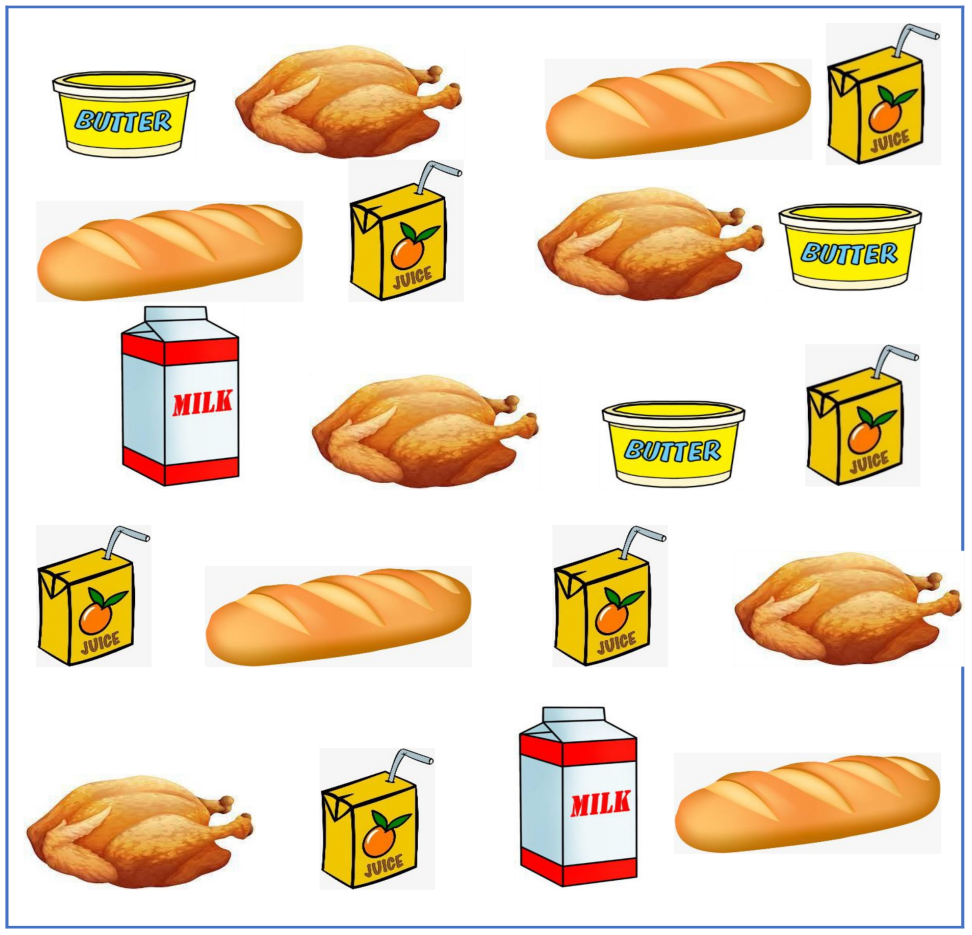


1. What is Jenny eating?
   _____
   _____
2. Why do they need the cloth?
   _____
   _____
3. Name two things that you would include in the picture to show where this picnic is taking place. Draw them in the picture.
   _____
   _____
4. What food would you prefer to eat and drink at a picnic? Draw them in the picture.
   _____
   _____

Pictographs

The items bought at the supermarket are shown below.

Using  to represent 1 item, draw the pictograph to show the number of items for each kind. Milk has been done as an example.



Items bought at the supermarket

 represents ONE (1) item

Phagwa-Places of Celebration

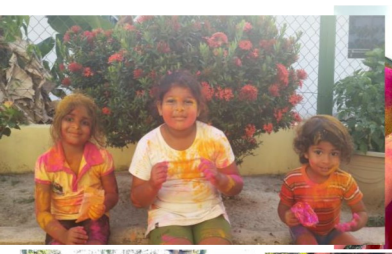
The most popular Phagwa song, 'Holi Khele Raghubeera,' can be heard throughout the day



We belong to a **multicultural** society with **different people and religions**. Even though we may not belong to a particular religion, it is important to **show appreciation** for all the festivals we celebrate in our country including **Phagwa** or **Holi**.

Let us join our **Hindu brothers and sisters** and show appreciation for the festival of **Phagwa!!**

At our homes










Some people prefer to celebrate Phagwa in **small groups at home with family and friends.**

We acknowledge the continued support of our **friends and family** in making this initiative a successful one. We also thank them **for their giving nature.**



Activity

At our schools

Mc Bean Hindu School






Music and dance are normal during the day in celebration of Phagwa.




Phagwa Craft

Materials required:

1. Old newspaper
2. Different colours of poster paints or abeer powder
3. Blank cut-out provided below
4. Paint brushes or you can use your fingers

Place some old newspaper on your work surface. Position the cut-out on your surface. Dip you brush (or fingers) into your poster paints and flick the paint onto the cut-out or sprinkle the abeer powder. The motion of the brush or fingers with the paints looks like when abeer is squirted at Phagwa festivals. Have fun!