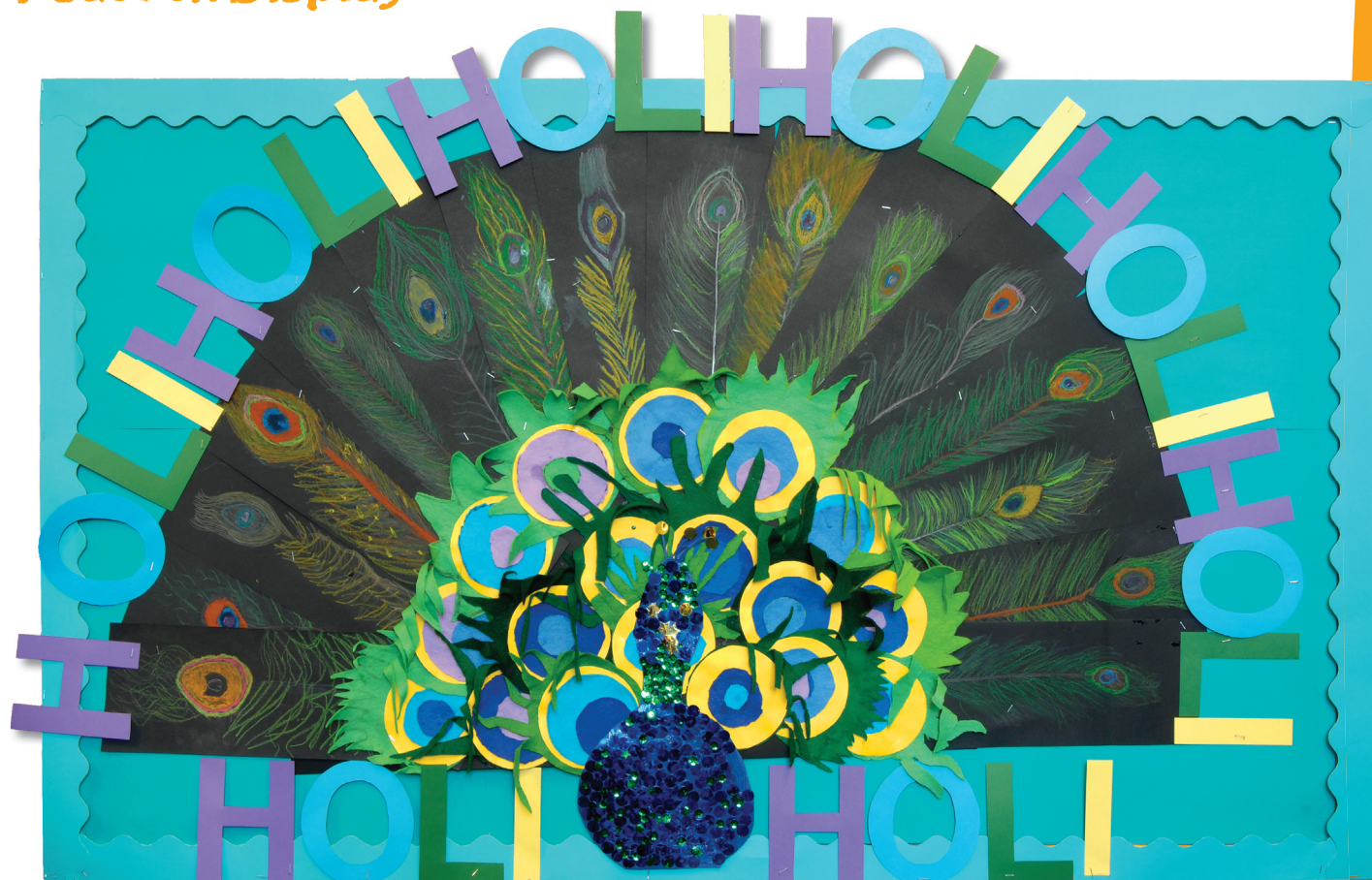


Peacock Display



The peacock is the national bird of India and is fully protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972. It is prominent in legends and folklore of the Indian people. Peacocks always accompany the image of Lord Krishna and a peacock feather forms part of his crown. The festival of Holi is closely connected with Lord Krishna (an incarnation of Vishnu) and his love for Radha. Many legends revolve around him, and the young Lord Krishna has often been portrayed as a mischievous prankster who loved playing jokes. It is said that he started the trend of throwing colours after he applied colour to the face of his beloved Radha to make her more like him.

Resources

- Strips of black card
- Wax pastels
- Peacock feathers
- Felt
- Sequins and card to make the peacock

Approach

- 1 Show the children the peacock feathers and discuss the significance of the peacock in Indian folklore.
- 2 Encourage the children to look closely at the colours and using wax pastels, draw the feather on black card.
- 3 Display the individual drawings as a fanned peacock with felt feathers and a sequined peacock in the foreground.

Cross-curricular Links

- **RE** – At the same time as Hindus celebrate Holi, many Sikhs hold their own festival called Hola Mohalla. Investigate the similarities and differences of the two festivals.
- **Literacy** – Write a play script for the story of Holi and act it out. Make props and costumes.