



## **India: Holi and Painted Elephants**

### **Pre-visit Activity: Background Reading**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

India is a country located on the continent of Asia. Because so many people live in India, it is the second largest country in the world! If you look at India on a map, you will see that the tallest mountains in the world are on its northern border. Because melting snow from the mountains causes rivers to form, India has many large rivers where people are able to live and grow crops. India also has many different types of plants and animals. For example, the Bengal tiger is from India.

In the box below, draw a picture of a Bengal tiger and tall mountains.



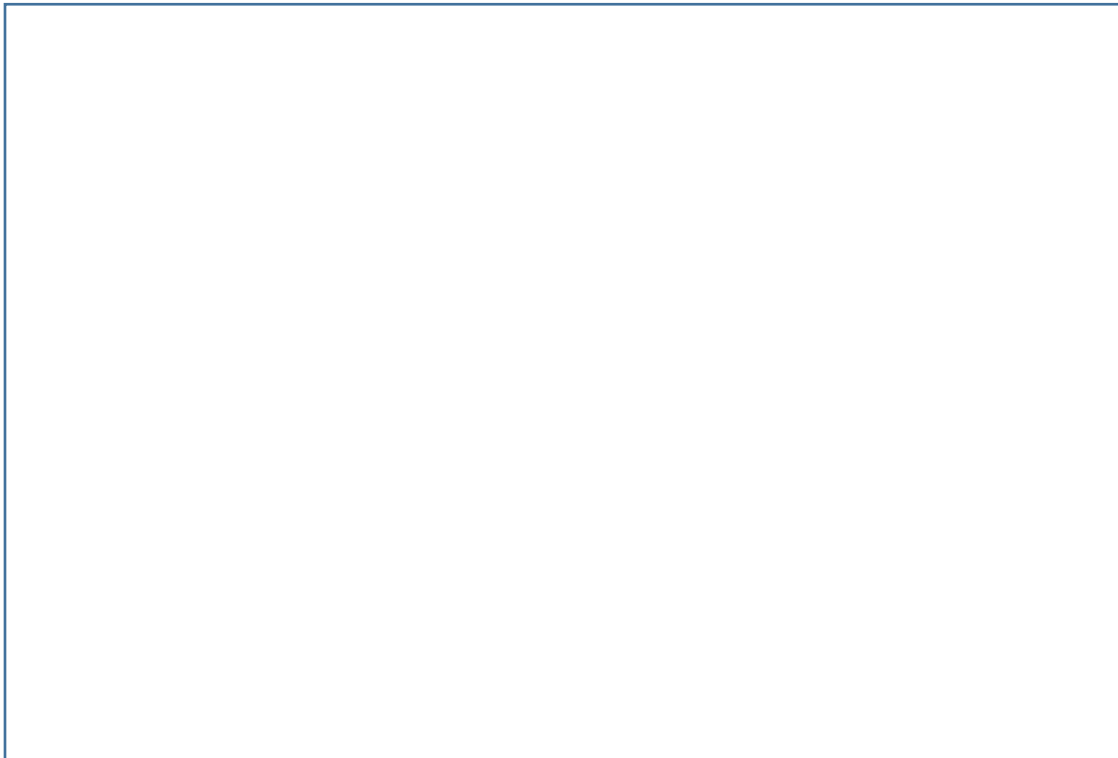


## **India: Holi and Painted Elephants**

### **Pre-visit Activity: Background Reading**

When groups of people live near each other, they share the same culture. Culture is the daily life of a group of people. One example of culture is how people celebrate holidays. An important celebration in India is called Holi. Holi is also called the Festival of Colors, because people throw colored powder in the air to welcome spring. They get together at a park, play music then throw red, blue, yellow and green powder. It is very fun.

In the box below, draw a picture of people throwing colored powder.



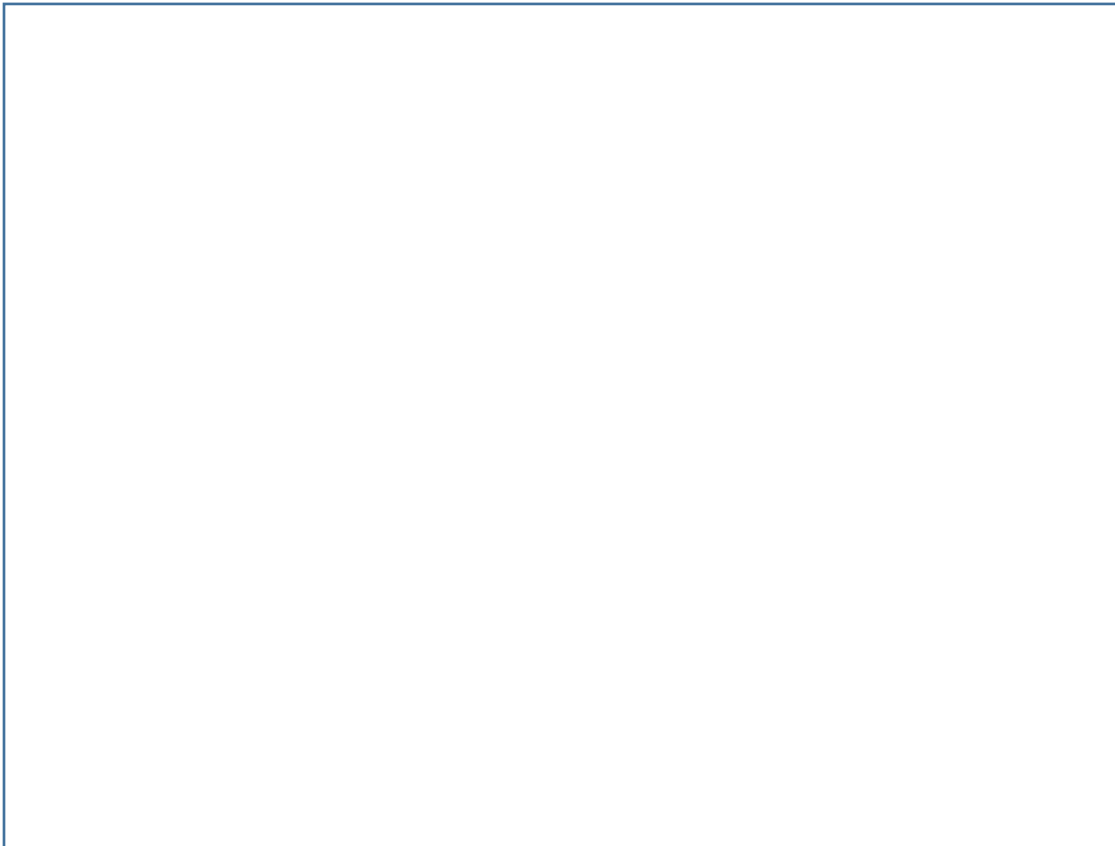


## India: Holi and Painted Elephants

### Pre-visit Activity: Background Reading

Another way the people of India celebrate during Holi is to have elephant parades. Elephants are very important animals to the people of India because of their ability to do hard work. During Holi, the people decorate elephants in beautiful colors, and let them be in a parade to *honor* them.

In the box below, draw a picture of a decorated elephant.



Source: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/08/painted-elephants/shear-text>

