



This story is about a special holiday in India. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.



Hard Work— Then a Holiday!

Sari woke up early. She had many tasks to do today. Tomorrow would be a holiday. It was Holi, the day of colors. Holi was held every spring. But first Sari had to do her work.

This morning, Sari went to the village well to get water for the day. Then she swept the hard dirt floor of her house. Her older sisters helped their mother with the cooking. They made chickpeas, potatoes, and vegetables. Sari's mother made a special bread called roti from wheat flour.

Sari's brothers went to the fields. They helped grow rice and cotton. The fields were very small. Each family raised only enough to live. Sometimes Sari and her family picked berries from the trees near her village.

Finally, it was Holi. The whole family went into the city to enjoy their day off. What a change! There were people everywhere. Sari found a fountain where she filled a small jar with water. Then she mixed in some bright pink powder. Soon Sari spotted her friend Padma. “Hello!” they called to each other. Then Sari splashed the pink water all over her friend! Padma just laughed and threw blue water on Sari. That’s what people do on Holi.

Sari and Padma strolled along the busy streets. At one corner, they stopped to watch an old man. He had a snake around his neck. The man played a horn, and the snake moved slowly to the music. Next, the girls watched a parade. They sang songs and played games with their friends.

It was very late when Sari’s family returned home. Tomorrow would be another day of hard work. But today had been special—a holiday.





Understanding the Story

It is important to understand what you read. You just read a story about a holiday in India. Did you read the story carefully?

Here are some questions about the story. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. A *holiday* is

- (A) a day of hard work
- (B) a day that is special for people
- (C) a day like any other day
- (D) a day during the week

Inference

2. What would one of Sari's jobs be when she got older?

- (A) cooking
- (B) playing games
- (C) working in the field
- (D) growing rice and cotton

Inference

3. When does the story take place?

- (A) in the spring
- (B) in the fall
- (C) in the winter
- (D) in the summer

Inference

4. You can tell from the story that

- (A) it's not often that Sari can go out and have fun with her friends
- (B) Sari often goes into the city to be with her friend Padma
- (C) Sari only has to work on the day before Holi
- (D) Sari and her family go into the city every Saturday

Critical Reasoning

5. Why wasn't Padma angry when Sari threw water on her?

- (A) Padma was hot.
- (B) Padma liked the color pink.
- (C) Sari asked Padma if it was okay.
- (D) People always splash colored water on Holi.

Factual

6. How do you think Sari feels about Holi?

- (A) She doesn't like it because she has a lot of work to do.
- (B) She thinks Holi is scary because of the snakes.
- (C) Sari doesn't care if she goes to Holi or not.
- (D) Sari likes Holi and thinks it's exciting.

Critical Reasoning



Summing Up

A **sequence chart** can help you sort out the events in a story. Think about what Sari did on Holi. Then, on the chart below, write down what she did in the correct order in each box. The first event has been filled in for you.

Event #1

Sari and her family went into the city to enjoy their day off.

Event #2

Event #4

Event #3

Event #5

Event #6

